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Book _____

History of the Town of Coventry

—By—

Oliver P. Judd

History of the Town of Coventry

from the first white
man's log hut, with all
the most important
events, down to the
present time.



... BY ...
OLIVER P. JUDD
COVENTRY, N. Y.

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OLIVER P. JUDD

Introduction



The author of this work never expected until lately to make his appearance in this manner before the public. When he commenced writing this history he only intended to write a little sketch and put it in a newspaper for the benefit of the public. After a few articles had been published, fellow townsmen appealed and urged him, contrary to his own wishes, to look up and write a larger and much more complete history of the town. After due consideration he consented to do so. It has cost a lot of hard work and a great deal of time to compile it, getting only a portion of it from any history, while the greater part had to be gleaned from the older inhabitants, which had to be done by traveling from house to house, making well on to a hundred miles, so you see it was no easy task to get up this history as most of the traveling was done on foot. Now if the reader should see some slight mistake I hope he will forgive, for he must remember that it had to be gleaned from old people that were 70 and 80 years old, and who at that age can have a memory so keen that they might not make some slight mistake; for they all had to tell it from memory. But on the whole I think it is as perfect as any history can be.

The writer has put in some incidents, anecdotes, and some thrilling scenes, showing the physical strength and courage, and the determined will of our forefathers in coming into the then new country covered with dense forests, inhabited by wild beasts and the more dreaded savage foe, the red man, to make homes for themselves and their posterity. He has also put in several poems, which are very appropriate, written for special occasions by the poet and poetess of the town. It also contains all the most important events that have ever happened in the town. The mothers in those early times had much to do with shaping the destiny of the town, most of them coming from Connecticut, of the old Puritan stock. They could not bear to see the Sabbath day desecrated, so they held meetings every Sabbath, going from house to house, holding some kind of a religious meeting till the first church in town was organized.

The author submits this history to the public in the hope that those

who read it will be inspired with as much of the spirit of courage, fidelity to home, of patriotism for country and brotherly love for each other as has been shown from the thousands of incidents; of courage and bravery with which our forefathers were inspired, scenes that are close to the human heart and which bring with them the glow of manhood and womanhood, showing the test of their courage and their heroism of everyday life.

NOTE:—The reader will find the words "old Chenango road" a good many times in the history. The younger people probably don't know what it means or where it is, or how it came there. In the Revolutionary war, before pioneers ever set foot on this soil to claim it, the Indians rose up against the whites in Wyoming Valley, Penn., and massacred them with great slaughter, also in Cherry Valley, N. Y. General Sullivan with several thousand men and cannon was sent out from Philadelphia to subdue the savage foe. After subduing them at Wyoming he started for Cherry Valley, coming through Elmira and Binghamton, thence to Chenango Forks, from there he wanted to go to Bainbridge which was at that time a solid wilderness. So he had to cut his road through coming by the way of North Fenton, through Lower Page Brook by the white school house and where Henry Spencer now lives, and Guy Wylie's up the hill, the Matthew Hoyt place, Thomas Tifft farm down by the Pearsall farm and so on through Wilkins Settlement, if I am informed right, and through to Bainbridge. This was the old Chenango road known as the Chenango and Catskill turnpike and the first road in town. The one now running from Greene to Bainbridge is part of the old Catskill and Ithaca turnpike.

OLIVER P. JUDD.

History of the Town of Coventry

By Oliver P. Judd



CHAPTER I.

Coventry was formed from Greene February 7, 1806, and derives its name from Coventry in Connecticut, from whence the first settlers came. Greene was formed March 15, 1798, from Union, Broome county, and Jericho, now Bainbridge, all three then in Tioga county and was in honor of General Nathaniel Greene, of Revolutionary fame. Parts of Greene and Oxford were annexed to Coventry in 1843. It lies near the center of the south border of Chenango county and is bounded on the north by Oxford, on the east by Bainbridge and Afton, on the south by Afton and also Colesville in Broome county, and on the west by Greene. It occupies the ridge that forms the watershed between the streams that flow into the Susquehanna on the south east and the Chenango on the north west. The hills, whose highest elevations are midway between the rivers, are about 800 feet above the valleys, and generally have gradual slope and are tillable to their summit. The surface is well distributed into arable pasture and meadow lands. Its waters consists of the head waters of small streams, the principal ones Harpur and Kelsey's creeks both tributaries of the Susquehanna river. It is wholly underlaid by the rocks of the Catskill group, the soil is mostly of a sandy and gravelly loam. The town is admirably adapted to grazing. Dairying forms the chief branch of its agriculture, in 1880 there were four cheese and butter factories in the town, now

there are only two. In 1875 the population of the town was 1,345 of which 1,307 were natives and 38 foreigners—all white. Its acreage was 27,815 of which 21,326 were improved and 640 unimproved. There are eleven common school districts in the town each of which has a school house of its own. The number of children of school age, residing in the districts, September 30, 1875, was 373. During the year ending September 30, 1878, there were 7 male and 14 female teachers employed of whom 11 were licensed. The number of children residing in the districts who attended school was 309; of whom only four were under five or over twenty-one years of age. The total daily attendance during the year was 171,391. The number of volumes in district libraries was 280, the value of which was \$44.00. The number of school houses was 11 all frame which with the sites embracing 2 acres and 152 rods valued at \$425, were valued at \$3,600; the assessed value of the taxable property in the district was \$688,050. The number of children between eight and fourteen years of age residing in the district September 30, 1877, was 179, of whom 156 attended district school fourteen weeks of the year. In looking back to the census of 1855 we find that there were 1,681 people in the town, and history says that the population had been diminishing for the last 30 years before that, so I think that in 1825 there must have been 2,000 population. There was a reason for

this; when the first settlers came in they took small farms, 50 acres apiece. The man that got his paid for first was ready to buy out his neighbor, who had not paid for his, so you see the first farms grew larger, and the families diminished. In 1855 there were 12 school districts with the attendance of 640; an average of fifty-three and one-third while today there is less than 100.

Settlements

The first settlement in the town of Coventry was made in 1785 by Simon Jones who came from Coventry, Connecticut, and located on the old Chenango road near the center of the town on 100 acres now owned and occupied by Ray Parker. Jones died there childless, January 12, 1817, aged 67. William Goodsell and Andrew Clark settled near Mr. Jones, on the same road the following year, the latter on land which now forms part of Ray Parker's farm. They remained but a short time and but little is known of them. Benjamin Jones, cousin of Simon Jones, came in from the same place in 1788, and settled on the same road, one and one-half miles south east of Coventry village, on the farm known as the Thomas Tift farm. He took up 250 acres of land and kept there that year the first inn in the town, in a frame building which was in use till about 1850, when it was moved across the road for a horse barn. He kept the hotel but a few years, being principally engaged in farming. He was for some years, the agent for the sale of land in this locality. He removed about 1833, with a portion of his family, to Wellsville where two of his children resided a number of years; Zenas H., a lawyer and Clar-

issa, wife of William Gifford. Two of his sons remained here; Benjamin John Lewis and Laman P. The latter carried on a boot and shoe business in Coventry for about 40 years. The former settled about two miles east of Coventry on the farm now owned by Edgar Pearsall. He subsequently moved to Susquehanna where he died June 22, 1858, aged 52 years. Sylva M., his wife, died February 16, 1875, aged 63 years. He was the father of C. F. Jones, deceased, of Church Hollow, well known in Harpursville and vicinity. Benjamin Jones, Sr., joined the Revolutionary army at the age of 18 years, and served until the close of the war. During his residence here, in 1806, he represented this county in the Assembly and during his legislative term was instrumental in securing the formation of the town of which he was one of the first officers and in giving it the name of his native place in Connecticut. He was the first member of the legislature from this town, and was one of the first assessors of the town of Bainbridge in 1791. The first postoffice was kept in his house and was removed to Coventryville on the establishment of the hotel there. This town has been represented to the State legislature by seven different men, viz., Benjamin Jones, William Church, Rufus Chandler, Romeo Warren, William Kales, Charles Pearsall, and Edgar Pearsall.

Burrige Miles came from New Haven, Connecticut, in 1789 and took up 200 acres comprising the whole of the site of Coventryville, where he settled. Having kept a hotel in New Haven, Connecticut, his native place he erected a frame house in which he kept hotel. In

1811 he built the present hotel in Coventryville, which he kept until his death, September 12, 1848, aged 83 years. He married in New Haven, Elizabeth, sister of Ozias Yale of Cheshire, Connecticut. She died September 15, 1832, aged 68 years. His children were Betsey, who married Augustus Martin; Luman, who kept hotel in Coventry a good many years, and Burrige, who lived in Coventryville, and died, July 23, 1829, aged 24 years. The children were all born in Coventry, and Luman who was born in a hotel, kept one nearly all his life. When Miles came into the town, Royal Wilkins had squatted on the creek, one-fourth mile south of Coventryville, and had made a small clearing and built a shanty; but he moved soon after to Afton where he settled and raised a family. His location here was near where Frank Pearsall now lives.

Ozias Yale and William Stork made settlements in 1792, and Deacon Richards about the same time. Yale came from Cheshire, Connecticut, and settled one-half mile north of Coventryville, where T. M. Williams now lives, and where he died, May 26, 1853, aged 86 years. He was a farmer and held the office of justice several years. He was twice married. Hannah, his first wife died, December 23, 1810, aged 55 years, and Agnes A., his second wife, March 8, 1875, aged 88 years. Two sons, Thomas, who lived at Nineveh for a good many years, and Robert, who lived in Norwich, Evaline, wife of Nathaniel Smith and Hannah, wife of Seth Beckwith, were daughters of his. The deaths of his daughter, Hannah and son H——, both children by his first wife, the former October 3, 1796, at the age of 3 years

and the latter July 9, 1800, at the age of 6 years were among the earliest in the town; and the birth of the former, must have been among the first, if not the first in the town. William, son of Moses Allis, born in 1794, is credited with being the first white child born in the town.

Deacon William Stork was also from Cheshire, Conn. He took up one hundred acres in the east part of the town, where he and his wife died, the former December 3, 1822, aged 52, and the latter, Rebecca Parker, March 17, 1832, aged 59. He was a carpenter and joiner, and carried on that business in connection with farming. He had eight children, only four lived to grow up; two were born in Connecticut, but died in infancy, as also did the other two who died young. The four who lived to maturity were Julia, who was born in Coventry September 16, 1799, married Don. C. Parker of Cazenovia, where they settled afterwards, removing to Greene where he died November 2, 1862; Anna, who died a maiden lady on the homestead in Coventry; Lauriston, who married Pheuby, daughter of William Clark, of Cazenovia, where they settled and where he died; and William L., a lawyer who lived in Cazenovia.

Deacon Richards settled on the old Chenango road; also Harden Bennett about 1792-5. Roger Edgerton settled about four miles south of Coventry, where Charles Seymour now lives, and was killed there by falling down stairs. He came as early as 1790, in which year a son of his died, his death being the first in the town. One son, Hial, kept a store in Nineveh, his son Franklin followed him in the store. Several great grandchildren are living.

Philo Yale settled in the town in 1794, when 19 years old, and built his house in 1800, he dug the first grave in the cemetery at Coventryville for William Button, it is in the north east corner of the yard. Moses Allis came in as early as 1795, and Zenas Hutchinson and Levi Parker about that year. Allis was a shoemaker and settled three miles south of Coventry on the farm now owned by Ex-Sheriff Beardsley. He resided there until well advanced in years, when he went to Ohio, where he died. None of his children are living here. His son William who is generally supposed to have been the first child born in the town removed to Ohio about 1830 and died there. Hutchinson came from Coventry, Connecticut, where he was born September 17, 1782, and settled on the first farm west of Coventry, which is now owned and occupied by Charles Hoyt. He afterwards removed to the village and died there November 31, 1869. He held the office of justice of the peace thirty years, and was town clerk and school teacher for a good many years. He married Electa Trumbull, who was born March 3, 1794, and whose father was an early settler in that town where she died February 18, 1870. He had two children, both daughters, Callista, who married Chauncey S. Williams, now living in Coventry; and Sophia, who died at the age of 17. Parker came from Cheshire, Conn., and settled on the site of the Congregational parsonage in Coventryville village. He afterwards removed to the west part of the town, to the place where Mr. Pearson now lives, and died there April 9, 1846, aged 79 years. Phebe, his wife, died October 9, 1859, aged 89. His children were: Eldad, who settled at

Coventryville, where he died June 4, 1820, aged 26; Levi, who married and settled where Burton Jones now lives, and died there October 5, 1864, aged 68, and Polly G., his wife, October 5, 1854, aged 59. Aaron, who was a Baptist minister, lived to an advanced age; Luman, who settled at Coventryville; Laura, who married Meritt Stoddard and after his death, October 12, 1820, married Ahira Barden and lived in Tioga county; Phebe, who married A. B. Dodge and lived in Triangle, Broome county, and Lucinda, who died young and unmarried. James S. Parker, at one time a merchant in Coventry, Mrs. Daniel Beecher of Coventry, Meritt S. Parker, at one time a merchant in Greene, and Mary, wife of Dr. M. B. Spencer of Guilford, are the grandchildren.

Record Wilbur came in from Vermont as early as 1798, and settled about a mile south of Coventry on the north part of the farm now owned by Edward H. Porter and son, and died there January 29, 1862, at the advanced age of 99 years. Naomi, his wife died January 21, 1842, aged 76. They had no children.

CHAPTER II

A Continuation of Early Settlers

A man named Childs, whose wife was a sister of Record Wilbur, came in soon after Wilbur and made a clearing and planted corn on the place now owned by William Kelley, known as the Judd farm. He remained but one summer and returned to Vermont, from whence he came. His wife never came here.

Captain Jothan Parker came in as early as 1795, probably that year, and settled one mile south of Coventryville, on the place now owned

by Edgar Pearsall. He built in that locality in 1795 the first grist mill in the town. He kept also in an addition to the south part of his house the first store in the town. Hiland, his son, afterwards kept store there in company with Benjamin Jones. Captain Parker also kept a tavern. He died there after a short but active business life, July 19, 1815, aged 62. His wife, Sarah, survived him many years and died November 13, 1848, at the advanced age of 90 years. His children were: Hiland Jothan, Jr., who died in February, 1830, aged 42; Luman, who died October 5, 1801, aged 20; Emma and the widow Loveland. The grist mill built by Captain Parker was located on a small creek one-fourth of a mile south of Coventryville near the residence of Frank Pearsall. A portion of the foundation may yet be seen. It was operated as a grist mill till about 1845, when William Warner converted it into a carpenter shop which was burned about 1876.

Simeon Parker settled at an early day one and one-half miles north of Coventryville where his grandson, Peter H. Parker, now lives and where he and his wife died, the former February 7, 1824, aged 48, and the latter, July 30, 1835, aged 60 years. He married Polly Sprague, and their marriage was the first one contracted in the town. Their children were, Lucius, Hiram, Simeon, Joel, Henry, Meritt, Polly, Betsey, Sally, Louisa, and Nancy, none now living.

A man named Stimpson settled in the northeast corner of the town, on the farm owned and occupied for a good many years by Draper Easton, in 1800. He lived and died there. He had six children: Jason, who

married Betsey Johnson, Simeon Roswell, who married a sister of Jason's wife; Nancy, who married Ira Bartholomew; Betsey and another daughter, who married the father of William Gilbert; all of whom are dead.

Deacon John Stoddard who was born July 1, 1763, came from Watertown, Conn., his native place, in 1801 and settled on the farm at Coventryville which was owned and occupied by his grandson, William A. Stoddard, where he died, February 24, 1821. He came in with his family, consisting of his wife, Sarah, daughter of Nathan Woodward, of Watertown, Conn., and six children, Curtis, Meritt, Polly, John, Sarah and Elijah Woodward. Three were born after they came here, Abigail, Wells and Abiram, not one of the nine is living. He took up 250 acres of land, nearly 100 acres of which is occupied by his grandsons and great-grandsons. His wife died January 1, 1849, aged 83. The Stoddards have been a prominent, influential and highly respected family. Curtis married Hepsey, daughter of Samuel Martin, from Watertown, Conn., who came in with Mr. Stoddard in 1800 and prospected the lands they took up and accompanied him in his settlements the following year. Mr. Martin died here January 17, 1840, aged 76, and Phebe, his wife, March 22, 1841, aged 76 years. Curtis Stoddard settled on 50 acres of his father's farm, where he raised a family of eight children. After the death of his wife he removed to Little St. Joseph, Ohio, where he died in 1843. Meritt Stoddard married Laura, daughter of Levi Parker, and settled in the west part of the town, where he died October 12, 1820, aged 32 years. Polly Stoddard mar-

ried Sylvester Stevens of Camden, Oneida county, and removed with him to that county, where he died. After his death she returned to Coventry and subsequently married Daniel Benedict. She died here in 1876. John Stoddard, who became a deacon, married Merab, daughter of Oliver Parker, an early settler in the town, where he died March 29, 1856, aged 85 years; and Abigail, his wife, January 10, 1861, aged 89 years. John settled on the homestead and died there January 20, 1865, aged 60 years. His wife died there March 20, 1857, aged 60 years. He was a justice of the peace for 20 years. Sarah Stoddard married Deacon William Albert Martin, a resident of Coventry, where they both lived and died. He died March 26, 1846, aged 53 years. Elijah Woodward Stoddard, who was born in 1797 and died in 1837, was graduated at Hamilton College in 1823, studied theology in Philadelphia and was licensed to preach in June 1826. He married Althea Coye of Coopers-town and in 1826 was settled as pastor at Lisle. He subsequently preached in Windsor, in each place six years, and removed to Little St. Joseph, Ohio, where he died. Abigail, married Miles Doolittle, a resident of Coventry, who built in 1815 the first and only carding mill in the town. It stood on a small stream which was early known as Great brook, about a mile south of Coventryville. Abigail died August 30, 1830. Wells Stoddard married Eunice, daughter of Eliakin Benedict, and settled in Coventry. They removed in 1833, to Marion, Iowa, where he died in 1853. Abiram married Lavina Smith of Derby, Conn., where he practiced medicine and where he died in 1839. Four of

John Jr's, children: Henry, John, Albert and Lewis, and one of Curtis' daughters, Hepsey, wife of Joseph Johnson, the last named is still living at this date 1912.

Deacon Philo Minor, came from Woodbury, Conn., in 1802, a single man and made a clearing of two acres about a mile east of Coventryville, on the place once occupied by C. Burlison. He returned to Connecticut the following fall and married Polly Stillson, and in the winter brought in his wife on an ox sled. About 1850 he removed to the place once occupied by Lewis Stoddard, and subsequently to Afton, where he died November 16, 1864, aged 83 years. His wife died February 6, 1848, aged 64 years. He had nine children: George, born in 1803. Clark and Esther, widow of Seneca Reed of Coventry; Mary, wife of Sylvester Cornell, and Sarah A, widow of Calvin Franklin, who died September 8, 1861, in Norwich.

At one time Mrs. Philo Minor left her home to go to a place near Brackett Pond to arrange for some weaving. She went on horseback as there were then no roads except log roads. Taking the wrong road she got lost and remained in the woods all night. It was dark and raining and when she could no longer see, she perched herself on a leaning tree as high as she could and hold the horse. She placed the saddle over her head as a protection against the falling rain and so passed the night with the woves howling around her, but she kept them at bay by beating the stirrups together, thus making music which they apparently did not like.

John Minor came in about the same time and he and his wife, Anna G. Beardsley, died here, the former,

February 9, 1854, aged 84 and the latter March 4, 1852, aged 79. Their daughter, Elizabeth D., married John Foot, a native of Coeymans, N. Y., who was a tanner and shoemaker and settled in Coventry where he held several military and town offices, and was deacon of the Congregational church. They had two children, Lydia Ann, who married Henry Milton Ketchum and removed to Minnesota, and Jane Amanda.

John Mandeville and Elisha Warren came in from Massachusetts, the former from Granby, in 1805. Mandeville settled in the south part of the town four miles south of Coventry on 50 acres, which now forms part of Charles Martin's farm, and died there about 1819. He was the first Supervisor in the town of Coventry. He had eight children: Ase-nith, who married Chauncey Brewer; Sophia, who married Lemuel Jennings; John, William C., James, Horace, Homer and Malancthon S. Two grandsons, Asahel and Harry, lived in the town on land afterwards acquired by him. Warren settled in the east part of the town one and one-half miles southeast of Coventryville, on the place now owned by the estate of Clark L. Horton, where he died January 13, 1806, aged 41 years. Lois, his wife, survived him many years. She died March 20, 1848, aged 80. He had three sons and one daughter: Woodward, who was born in Watertown, Conn., January 17, 1791, who was an architect and carpenter and died September 7, 1855, aged 64 years; Elisha, Lydia, who married Hial Benedict; and Romeo, the latter who represented this country in the State Assembly in 1856 and resided in Coventry till his death.

Settlements were made in 1806 by Jabez Manwarring, Henry Chandler and Pardon Beecher. Jabez Manwarring came from New London, Conn., and settled first three miles south west of Coventry on the farm once owned by John Beals. In 1812, he removed to the farm lying next north and resided there till his death, April 23, 1861, aged 80. In 1808 he married Sally Hopkins from Waterbury, Conn., who died October 21, 1863, aged 79 years. They had ten children; Charles B., who later resided at Nanticoke, Broome county; Henry and Edward S., at Windsor, Broome county; Lucius, at Coventry; William in Grandville, Mich.; Samuel and Albert in State Center, Iowa; George who died in Clinton county, Iowa, about 1864; Sally Maria, who married Albert Prett of Afton and subsequently David Blakeley of Wisconsin, where she died, were children of theirs.

Deacon Henry Chandler came from Brattleboro, Vt. He stopped about six months in Bainbridge, and removed thence to this town. He settled at Coventryville and had had charge of the grist mill which was then in operation a little south of that village. He built a log house into which he moved his family and after about a year bought a farm of nearly fifty acres about one and one-half miles south of Coventryville, known as the Sanford place. He afterwards removed to the farm known as the Benedict Foot farm in the north part of the town. He went to live with his children in Bainbridge in the latter part of his life and died there July 21, 1826, aged 72 years. Penelope, his wife, died March 25, 1841, aged 72 years. His children were: Nelly, who married Hardin Burnett; Sophia, who mar-

ried Phineas Bennett; Nabby, who married Calvin Niles; Michael, Henry, Selah, Rufus, David, Lockwood and Lois, who married William Wilson. Rufus resided in Coventry.

Parson Beecher removed from the parish in Salem, Conn., now Naugatuck, and like many others of the early settlers, fearing miasmatic disease and reputed sickness of the low lands and river courses, sought out an elevated location between the Chenango and Susquehanna river. He took up 100 acres of wilderness land one mile west of Coventry on what is known as the Guy Wylie farm, and there raised up a family to usefulness, honesty and sobriety. He continued his residence there till his death, August 10, 1843, aged 60. His house is said to have been the first framed house on that part of the Livingston tract lying in Coventry and the first on the Catskill and Ithaca turnpike, between Bainbridge and Greene, a distance of sixteen miles. There town meetings and elections were regularly held, as well as stated preaching every fourth Sabbath. In January, 1808, he married a lady of his native town, who died in 1875 at the advanced age of 91 years, with mind unimpaired. He brought her to a log cabin in his forest home. The farm was retained in the hands of the family till about 1858, when Julius Beecher, who succeeded his father in the occupancy sold it and removed to Wellsville, Allegany county, and died there. Parson Beecher's other children were: Sarah, who married a son of Curtis Stoddard and after his death, Amos Yale, and lived on the Amos Yale place in Guilford where her husband died, February 17, 1857, aged 40; Daniel, who was twice married, his second

wife, Betsey Parker, they lived in Coventry; Annette, who married Russel M. Smith and died in Coventry in the spring of 1877; Harris H. and Harry, twins, the former a physician of Norwich who wrote a history of the 114th Regiment, N. Y. S. V., and the latter of whom married the widow Phebe Ann Rice and lived in Norwich; Hector, who married Naomi Leonard of Oxford, with whom he lived till her death, then he went to Norwich and lived with his daughter until his death September 2, 1912, aged 86 years. Elbridge, who married and removed to Ohio and died there; Jane, who married John B. Hoyt, and lived in Pittston, Pa.; Julius, married Elizabeth Payne and after her death, Sarah Ann Stewart, and lived in Wellsville.

Lewis Warren, son of Nathaniel Warren came in from Watertown, Conn., 1808-9, and settled about three miles south west of Coventry on the farm where Ira Fairchild's did live. He returned to Connecticut about 1811 and remained there till 1822. He married Susa, daughter of Harvey Judd. They both lived and died in Coventry at a good old age, she being 94 years old. Their children were: Sally, who married Callitus Frisbie; Edward, who married Sally Judd for his first wife and Harriett Underwood for his second; Truman, who married Harriet Wheeler; George and Polly never married; Harvey died when 16 years old.

Harvey Judd removed from Watertown, Conn., to Delhi, Delaware county, in 1809, and the following year to Coventry, working farms on shares till 1822 when he and his son, Harvey P., bought the farm long known as the Judd farm, about one mile south west of Cov-

entry, now owned by William Kelley. He died there September 27, 1857, aged 94, his wife, Sarah Castle, in 1845, aged 80, and his son, Harvey P., died December 27, 1869, aged 64. His children were: Eri, who married and lived in Watertown, Conn.; Susa, who married Lewis Warren, who moved here in 1822; Noah, who married Nancy Peartree and lived on one half of the lot owned by Harvey and removed to Greene where he and his wife both died; and Harvey, as has been said, lived and died in Coventry.

Frances Kales came from Albany in 1811 and settled on land in the south line of the town, lately owned by Charles Clifford. Kales and his wife both were of Irish descent and both died there, the former in April, 1852, the latter in February, 1847. John and William, their sons, both lived and died in Coventry. William was a member of the Assembly in 1858.

David Hungerford emigrated from Watertown, Conn., his native place in 1812 and settled about three miles south west of Coventry, where his son Chauncey has lived most of the time since his birth in 1830. He was a blacksmith as well as farmer. He continued to reside there until his death, January 12, 1860, aged 80 years. His wife, Anna Y. Beckwith, a native of Vermont, died in 1883, at the ripe age of 100 years, 4 months and some days with mental faculties but little impaired. He married in Watertown, and his children were: Maria, who married Moses Hatch and lived and died in Kettleville; Susan, who married Harvey P. Judd, lived and died in Coventry; Rachel, wife of John Gobles, lived and died in Fulton City, Ill.; Lavinna, who married

Joseph Snell and died in Kettleville March 5, 1849. All the above named children were born in Connecticut. Those born in Coventry, were: Sally, a maiden lady living with her brother on the homestead; Anna, widow of Townsend Barnum, lived in Hastings, Minn.; Laura, wife of Ralph Beard, who lived in Coventry; David, who married Martha Ann Castle, lived in Kansas; and Chauncey, who lived on the homestead. They are all dead at this date unless it is David.

Most of the early settlers in the locality of Coventryville and on the road extending north into the south part of Oxford were from Cheshire, Conn., from which fact the little hamlet in the southern part of the town derives its name and the road in question is known as Cheshire street.

CHAPTER III.

The Early Settlers Still Continued. The Williams Family.

Among the early settlers was one Caleb Williams, who married Mahitabel Walker and came into this country from Wales; settled about one mile south of Church Hollow near where William Pearsall, now deceased, lived for many years. Although it was not in this town we speak of it but because several of the children were prominent citizens of Coventry. Their children were: Lois, who died young; Caleb Samuel, Stephen Walker, Hiram, Daniel, Mahitabel, Harley, Henry, Simon, Julia, Evaline and Lois. Caleb married Cordelia Bidwell and lived several years two miles west of Coventry, on the farm known as the Ezra Foote farm. He afterwards moved to Rockford, Ill., and died there. Samuel married

Phoebe Pearsall and lived on the homestead for several years. He moved to Triangle, where he lived for many years, thence to North Fenton, where they both died. They had four children two died young. Their son, Hamilton, married and had a family. Their daughter Amanda married Nelson Baker of Greene, where they lived a few years, afterwards they went to Nebraska where she died, leaving one son who is married and has two children. Nelson and his son are doing a large business farming near Norfolk, Va. Stephen Walker married Louisa Easton, and lived in the south east part of the town for many years. He had a large family, the majority of which died young. One died about four years ago in Kansas aged 82 years. Theodore died in the army during the Civil war September 24, 1863, aged 25 years. He was in Company E. 1st Regiment, Minnesota Vol. Ellina went to Wisconsin, married Elisha Sanders and had four children; died March 29, 1876, aged 40 years. Willard married twice, both wives deceased. He is now living with his son in Cuba, N. Y. Oliver P., is now living in Coventry; Chauncey S., died in Coventry January 31, 1912. Oliver P., and Willard are the only ones living. Hiram was killed by an accident when a young man, while working in the woods with a yoke of cattle. Daniel married Thankful Blakeslee and worked at shoe making for a good many years, then farmed it on the farm now owned by Mr. Juliand a little south of R. Buckley's, from there he went west for a few years, came back, lived and died on the farm now owned by T. M. Williams, a little north of Coventryville. They had five children: Albert, who mar-

ried Jane Elizabeth Keyes, was a shoe maker and now lives in Binghamton; Polly, who married Sherman Pearsall; Thankful married Alonzo Pearsall; Wilbert married Anna Brainard; Clement married Laura Briggs, all deceased but Albert. Mehitabel married William Pearsall. They had five children. Washington married a Miss Sanford and lived on the old homestead. Egbert married a sister of Washington's wife; Susan and Caroline never married; Sarah married George Suttle, and lived at West Colesville till quite recently. They now live in Binghamton. Harley married and lived in this town many years on the north part of what was till quite lately the James Whitlock farm; later removed to Michigan. Henry married and went to Michigan. Simon married Polly Ann Tremain and lived in Coventry on the south part of the Whitlock farm. He afterwards moved to Clarksville, Allegany county, N. Y. Julia Evaline married Palmer Spearbeck; lived in these parts for a while then moved to Michigan. Louis never married. They were all Christian people and strong supporters of the three churches here.

Clark Smith came from Massachusetts a single man and married Lois Kelsey of Jericho, now Afton. Lived in Nineveh a few years, moved to Coventry and settled about four miles south of Coventry and lived until his death on the farm where his son Edward now lives, he being the only son living, and now in his 82d year. Clark Smith was born May 31, 1782. His children were: Albert Smith, a carpenter, went west; Loisa married Alanson Roe, who had seven children, one Mrs. Bristol, lives in Harpursville;

lived and died in this town. He was a farmer; Harvey S., a minister, died in Missouri; Russel S., was a deacon of the Second Congregational church and a farmer, lived and died in Coventry; Carlo S., farmer, lived and died at Doraville, in the town of Colesville. One son, Warren, and a grandson, Francis, now live in Doraville. Adaline died at the age of 22 years. Augustus, was for many years a farmer in the town, but spent his last years in Athens, Pa., with his daughter, Mrs. Sawtell, who had a large family, one son a minister. Cyrus, a farmer, lived and died in the town, one child, Mrs. C. G. Beardslee, and her two sons, grandchildren, and one granddaughter; Rhoda A., married Luther Dort, and lived in Harpursville; later moved to the west; Diana L., married S. A. Beardsley, and had three children: Alice, at home, Clark, a minister, and Alvin who died when a young man. Mary Smith died at two years of age. Edward C., a farmer lived on the old farm. Had five children: Mary, who married a Mr. Clayton, and lives in Arizona, had a large family of children. Clark married Libbie, daughter of John Manning, is a farmer living one half mile east of his father's, has two sons, and has been road commissioner for several years; Fred, who married Nellie, daughter of George Paddleford, and lives with his father on the old homestead, has one daughter. The Smiths have all been very prominent men and strong pillars in the Second Congregational church of Coventry, nearly always at the church, rain or shine.

This incident is related of Clark Smith. One day he was coming up from the Mandeville place through the woods and a panther followed

by the side of him. He had a saw in one hand and a jug in the other and kept the panther at bay by rattling them together until he got within sight of home, when he called and his wife left two little children on the floor, ran out with a pine knot all afire and scared the panther away.

The Manning Family

Nathaniel Manning was born at Oxford, Mass. He early came to the State of New York, and at the time of his marriage was living at Rensselaer, Albany county. About 1799, if the recollection of his descendants is correct, he came to Chenango county and settled in Coventry on what was then known as the Harpur tract, two and one-half miles south of Coventry. He owned about two hundred acres of land and was a well to do farmer. He held several town offices, including that of justice of the peace. The last year of his life he resided with his son Lewis on what is now known as the Joslyn farm and died there. He was buried in the Wylie cemetery. He was married at Charlton, Mass., February 12, 1792, to Anna, daughter of Ebenezer and Christina White, who was born October 5, 1771, at Charlton. In 1813 she and Nathaniel sold her rights in her father's estate in Westchester county. She died March 5, 1848, and Mr. Manning August 6, 1849, both at Coventry. Their children: Nancy, born in 1794, died unmarried; Charles White, born July 20, 1796, at Rensselaer; Betsey, born September 13, 1799, at Coventry; George, born January 22, 1802, at Coventry; Ira, born in Coventry February 19, 1807; Anna, born April 9, 1809, at Coventry; Abigail C., born in Coventry, Jan-

uary 5, 1812, died November 22, 1832, unmarried.

Samuel Manning was born December 22, 1774, at Oxford, Mass. He moved to Coventry, where he afterwards settled. He was a farmer and his tract of twenty-five acres was given to him by the town for service rendered said town, and it is believed he was in some way a land agent. He was married at Coventry in October, 1827, to Mrs. Fannie Osborn Woodward, born April 19, 1787, in Vermont. She died March 6, 1868, and Mr. Manning March 18, 1845, both at Coventry. His children were: Isaiah, born April 24, 1830, at Coventry, had one grandchild, Mrs. George Mayo. He was a millwright or machinist and sawyer which occupation he followed until he was killed by the falling of a tree, October 18, 1873, at Afton. Charles White Manning was reared and lived in Coventry for many years but later moved to the west. He had eight children. Two sons died in the Civil war. Betsey Manning married Calvin Edgerton. Their children were: Eliza Ann Edgerton, who married Cyrus Smith. As has been said before, George Washington Edgerton, born October 1, 1825, and died June 19, 1895, was married; William Henry and Henry Leroy, both died young. Ira Manning was born February 19, 1807, at Coventry on the farm now owned by Frank Pierce. He resided in his native town and his education was received in the common schools. About the time of his marriage he purchased a farm adjoining that of his father. He was Supervisor of Coventry, and assessor for several years. He married Mary A., daughter of James and Lucy Pomeroy Treadway, born

January 27, 1808, in Connecticut. She died October 23, 1868, and Mr. Manning October 18, 1865, both at Coventry, where they were buried. Children born at Coventry: Abbie Jane, born August 8, 1835, resided at Coventry and married Robert, son of Robert and Mary Love Wilson, born 1827, in Ireland, and died February 15, 1886, at Greene, Chenango county; no children. He was a prominent farmer, a kind and obliging citizen. John Waters, born May 20, 1837; William Seward, born February 24, 1839; Ira Delos, born November 20, 1842; Mary Ann, born June 27, 1848, resided at Greene, married there June 20, 1877, Allen, son of John and Sarah Weeks Handy; Napier, born January 7, 1840, in Brooklyn. Children born in Brooklyn: Sarah Weeks, born December 22, 1880; John Dwight, born January 10, 1882. Libbie Emma, born May 1, 1851, died January 12, 1870; Anna Manning, born April 9, 1809, at Coventry, died there February 13, 1866, married November 15, 1829, Joseph, son of Joseph and Hannah Wheeler Fairchild, born July 24, 1806, at Watertown, Conn., and died March 29, 1888, at Coventry. Children born at Coventry: Betsey Ann Fairchild, December 4, 1830, married October 4, 1849, Orin W. Childs; Ira Manning Fairchild, born May 12, 1833, resided at Coventry until 1894, and then removed to Sidney, married December 15, 1869, Frances E. Tuckey. Their daughter, Ann E., married James G. Simonson. Charles Leroy Fairchild, born May 17, 1836, died June 28, 1895, at Bainbridge. Married December 28, 1864, Sally A. Salisbury. Nancy Louisa Fairchild, born March 2, 1839, died September

30, 1851, at Coventry. George Russel Fairchild, born January 16, 1842, died September 24, 1851. John Henry Fairchild, born April 29, 1845, died October 11, 1869, at Coventry. Married January 5, 1869, Eugenia Watrous. Lewis Wheeler Fairchild, born November 9, 1847, died September 26, 1851. Since writing about the Manning family more history has been put into my hands. John Waters Manning, was born May 20, 1837, at Coventry. His early education was received in the common schools, afterward he attended Oxford Academy at Oxford for several terms. His death occurred October 20, 1911. He was a farmer in Coventry and married Martha Wealthy Hull of Oxford, May 9, 1866. Children born at Coventry: Frank Maurice, a farmer of Coventry, born August 27, 1867, married Lucy Wilson; Sarah Elizabeth, born November 30, 1869, is a resident of Coventry, married September 8, 1898, Clark E. Smith, born February 24, 1866; William Alanson, a farmer of Coventry, born January 4, 1872, married Eugenie Madigan; Mary Wealthy, born October 2, 1874, and died July 31, 1889.

William Seward Manning, born February 24, 1839, at Coventry, married (1st) in New York city June 25, 1867, Sarah, daughter of Robert Wilson, born in Greene in 1840, died October 16, 1880; and (2d), June 14, 1874, Margaret R., daughter of George N. and Lucretia Willoughby Havens, born October 26, 1841, at Oxford; resided in 1874, at West Exter. Mr. Manning died October 14, 1876. Children of William S. and Sarah Manning: William H., born December 9, 1869, in New York city; died June 30, 1870,

at Smithville. Children of William S. and Margaret R. Manning; Fanny Havens, born March 5, 1875, at Oxford. She graduated from Oxford Academy in 1892, and from Kraus Seminary, New York city, where she took a Kindergarten course in 1895. She then taught in a Mission school in Brooklyn under supervision of Plymouth church until 1897, when the school being given up she engaged in public school work at Newark, N. J., until her marriage August 22, 1900, to Rev. Alfred Rickard Burke. Ira Delos Manning, born November 20, 1842, at Coventry. His education was obtained at district schools and the academies of Oxford and Norwich. When a young man he taught school twelve terms. He resided on the Manning homestead for a number of years as a farmer then moved down into the hollow west of John Manning's and worked both farms. He has been commissioner for six years. He married September 2, 1870, Julia Eliza, daughter of Charles and Eliza Miller Sanford, born August 14, 1842, in New York city. Children: Leigh Delos, born August 28, 1871, at Coventry, died March 4, 1872. Julia May, born August 8, 1878, at Oxford. I think she is a graduate of some academy, and is now teaching in some High school. About three years ago, owing to Mrs. Manning's poor health, they moved to Greene where after a long illness she passed away. I should have said in speaking of John and William Manning that they both taught school a number of terms each. Your scribe went to school to William three terms.

The Fairchild Family.

Joseph Fairchild, Sr., was born in Watertown, Conn., in 1758, and liv-

ed there until 1811, when he moved to Coventry and bought a farm adjoining David Hungerford's of Lewis Barren, or his father, and lived there until he died in 1842, aged 85 years. His wife was Hannah Wheeler, and she died in 1838, aged 77 years. They raised nine children: Bille, Chloe, Agar, Hannah, Hulda, Sally, Nancy, Polly and Joseph. Part of them settled in Connecticut, the three boys came with him or soon after. Joseph, Jr., being only five years old at the time. Joseph, Sr., was three years a soldier in the Revolutionary war. He and his son, Joseph, Jr., lived on the same farm the remainder of their lives, it remaining in the family of the three generations eighty-three years. Joseph Fairchild, Jr., married Anna Manning. They had seven children: Betsey Ann, married Orrin Childs and they had three sons: Frank Jr., Charles and Seymour. Charles died when 26 years of age. Frank married Susan Squires, and Seymour married Irene Hyde. Orin Childs settled on the Gage Hinkley place for eighteen years, then sold and went to Ouaquaga in 1868, and lived there until his death in 1908, and his widow lives there with her son Frank. John Fairchild married Eugenia Watrous and died about eight months after in 1869. Charles married Sally Ann Salisbury in 1864, and lived on the homestead three years. He afterward settled in Sanford and lived there twenty years, then moved to Bainbridge, where he died in 1895, four months after moving there, aged 59 years. His wife died three years after, in 1898, aged 56 years. Anna Fairchild, wife of Joseph Fairchild, died in 1866, aged 57 years. Ira Fair-

child married Francis Tuckey in 1869, and lived on the old homestead with his father while he lived and five years after, when the place was sold and Ira moved to Sidney where he now lives. They had one daughter, Anna, who married J. S. Simonson, who is in business in Sidney. Belle Fairchild was twice married and raised eleven children. Agar moved to Ohio; Sally, daughter of Joseph Fairchild, Sr., married James Wylie and settled on the farm known as the George Wylie farm. They raised seven children: Thomas, Russel, Hoel, George, Hannah, Hubbard and Wheeler. The two oldest settled in Iowa. Hoel in Sodus, N. Y., and George on the homestead. Hubbard in the eastern part of the town. Hannah died in 1845, aged 21 years. Wheeler died, aged 12 years. George in 1901, aged 80 years and Hubbard, January 16, 1910, aged 82 years. Sally Fairchild Wylie died in 1864. Part of the history of the Fairchild family was not handed in till after the other was wrote so please excuse us for getting a little of it in twice.

The Horton Family.

Marcus N. Horton and Clark L. Horton were former residents of Coventry. Their grandfather, Benjamin Horton, was born at Naugatuck, Conn., in 1793. In 1818 they moved with their family of eleven children with ox teams and wagons from their home in Connecticut to Columbus, Chenango county, N. Y., where he purchased a farm. Their journey occupied eleven days, coming by the way of Albany to cross the Hudson river. About 1830 Benjamin Horton and family removed to Coventry and purchased a farm one and one-half miles north west of

Coventry village, now owned by Mr. Folds. Seven years later this farm was sold and a farm was purchased in the south west portion of the town, now occupied by his great-grandson, Leslie Horton, where Benjamin Horton died in 1841. His wife, Peninah, died later at the same place at the advanced age of 93 years. Benjamin Horton's family consisted of eleven children: Newton, who married a Tuttle and settled in Columbus; Amelia married Seldon Lewis; Julia married Cornelius Conover; Clarissa married Thomas Hyde; Germon married Rhoda Treadway; Leonard married Jemima Conover; George W., married Harriett Flagg; Hamilton, married Matilda Dutcher; Almira, married Charles Beardsley; Denison, married Catherine M. Brown; Lewis P., married Martha A. Shapley; Germon lived most of his life in Coventry and had no children; Leonard was a wagon maker, having learned the trade by a three years apprenticeship. He worked at his trade making and repairing wagons at West Coventry, but later moved to the east part of the town at the old homestead where Clark L. Horton was born, and there he worked at his trade, and later took up farming. Children of Leonard and Jemima Horton were four: Marcus, who married Adeline Briseck; Emily J., who married Wells Streeter; Avis H., who married S. D. Stillman and Clark L., who married Martha Parker. Marcus N. Horton early sought an education, and through his own earnest efforts graduated from Williams College, Mass., and for a long time followed teaching as a calling, in which he became very successful. He later became superintendent of schools of the city of Williamsport

and at Franklin, Pa., and was at one time school commissioner for the southern district of Chenango county. He reached the advanced age of past 80 years. He lived at Bloomfield, N. J.; Marcus N., has two sons. Edward H. Horton, is a teacher and principal of the Pine street school of Binghamton, N. Y., which position he has held for many years; and John M. Horton, who is a valuable employe of the Chemical National Bank of New York city. Emily J., became a teacher and followed the calling many years, both in district and High schools. Late in life she married Wells Streeter, whom she survived, and died at the old homestead near Coventryville in 1899. Avis A., was also at one time preceptress of the Walton Academy. She married S. D. Stillman of Herkimer county, N. Y., and lived with him until her death in 1895. Clark L., was born in 1847, and was educated at the district schools, Oxford Academy, and Jefferson County Institute; taught a few terms and settled down to farming on the Warren farm near Coventryville which he purchased. He made farming pay, also was remarkably successful as a business manager of a creamery for twenty years, which had been established at Coventryville. In 1894 he leased his farm and moved with his family to Afton where he actively engaged in the hardware business, and also held the office of justice of the peace. He was an active member of the Baptist church. He died suddenly in Afton on the 7th of May, 1912. He is survived by his wife, one daughter, Rachel H., who married Elmer Tew of Oxford, and now resides in Afton, and one son, Harry G., who married Fannie Hare of Harpursville, and re-

sides in Afton and has continued in the business that he commenced with his father. George W. Horton lived in the west part of the town for a great many years and engaged in farming. He had three daughters: Marie, who married Jack Elliott; Susan and Sarah. Hamilton left Coventry when young and lived in the west. He had a son, Ezra, who lived in Sherburne, N. Y. Denison went to Chicago when a young man, when the city was comparatively small, and grew up with the place and attained great prosperity and wealth. Much of the latter he lost in the great Chicago fire. His children were two daughters. Lewis B., the youngest son, became the possessor of the homestead and cared for his mother in her last days. He had one son, Albert, who died soon after he reached manhood, but not until after he was married and became the father of a son. Leslie, who was brought up by his grandfather, from whom he received the old farm where he still lives as the sole representative of the Hortons in Coventry.

CHAPTER IV.

Settlers That Came a Little Later. The Hawkins Family.

Elijah Hawkins was one of the early settlers of the town at Coventry. He came from Massachusetts, the exact date being unknown. He settled on the southern part of what is known as the William Kales farm on the east side of the road and north of the county line of Coventry and Colesville. His house was situated a little north west of the old family cemetery of the Hawkins and Pike families, which can be seen from the highway. His farm consisted of over three hundred

acres and was one of the largest and most improved farms in the town at the time of his death. It included besides the part mentioned the farm now owned by Ransom Adkins, also the farm formerly owned by Pomeroy Adkins, and other pieces of land near.

Not far from the year 1800 the father of Elijah wrote from Massachusetts to his son that his mother was dead, and said he thought of coming west if game was plenty. Elijah immediately wrote to his father and told him to come and make it his home with him, for game was plenty. The father, Robert Hawkins, left his home in Massachusetts and came and spent the rest of his life with his son. He spent much time setting out fruit trees on his son's farm, and said in years later that he did not expect to live to eat fruit from the trees, but had for a good many years. He shot one bear after he came to Coventry. He was an old man at the time of the Revolutionary war, too old to carry arms, but served his country as a guard in the forts of the patriots. He was twice married. His first wife was Rebecca Bowers, and his second wife was Rachel Buck Baldwin. Two children of his first wife: Lydia and Samuel, never came west and nothing more is definitely known about them. Robert Hawkins died November 14, 1830, aged 101 years, and was buried on the farm in the family cemetery. His second wife's children were: Eben, Enoch, Rebecca, Mary and Elijah. Rebecca Hawkins married Joseph Pike and came from Massachusetts after her family had grown up. The family settled near the Hawkins family, just over the county line in Colesville. Rebecca and

Joseph Pike had a family of six sons and one daughter, whose descendants are scattered almost throughout the United States. Joseph Pike, was an old Revolutionary soldier and died February 19, 1842, aged 82 years. Rebecca Hawkins Pike died June 26, 1817, aged 54 years. She was the first person for whom the sod was broken in the family plot which has before been mentioned. In the spring of 1832, Elijah Hawkins was taken ill, from which he knew there was no recovery. He had no family except his wife, so he gave all his property to his nephew, Malcom M. Hawkins, to care for him and his wife while they lived. Malcom M. Hawkins at that time owned and occupied the north part, west of the highway of what has long been known as the Asa Mandeville farm. His farm consisted of fifty acres, a saw mill which he operated himself. He had resided there nearly twelve years, when he sold and removed to the farm of his uncle, Elijah Hawkins. He died May 27, 1832, aged 65 years. His wife died about two years later. Malcom N. Hawkins was named in honor of Dr. Malcom Niven, a friend and physician of the family. He occupied the old Hawkins farm for many years. He was born on a part of the farm just north of the Coventry line, in Coventry, July 22, 1799. His parents were among the pioneers of the towns of Coventry and Windsor and he was the second son of thirteen children. The records of the Windsor Presbyterian church gives the following baptisms of their family: March 31, 1813, at a church meeting held at the house of David Hotchkiss, these children were baptized, Malcom, Benjamin, Philota,

Robert, Rachel, Charlotte, Mary, Dorcas, and Elijah, children of Jemima and Enoch Hawkins, by the Rev. Ebenezer Kingsbury. June 13, 1813, at Windsor, David and Daniel baptized by Rev. Joshua Johnson. Malcom N. Hawkins married Fannie Fowler, formerly of Bennington, Vt., they were married in Coventry by Squire Hutchinson about 1820. The names of their children and date of birth is as follows:

Eleanor, born June 14, 1825.
Elizabeth, born December 6, 1828.
Eben, born January 14, 1831.
Emily, born March 6, 1833.
Thomas, born October 15, 1834.
Nathan, born June 30, 1837.
Alfred, born September 17, 1840.
Chloe, born April 19, 1843.

All these were born in Coventry and all removed to Windsor, N. Y., except Eleanor, when quite young, where they have spent their lives. Malcom N. Hawkins sold part of his farm east of the highway to William Kales and removed to the western part where he built a new house and grist mill and saw mill combined. After living there several years he sold to his son-in-law, Pomeroy Adkins, and removed to Windsor in 1849, where he spent the rest of his life. He built another saw mill and operated it for a number of years. He did much to convert the wilderness into lumber. He died July 31, 1877, aged 78 years. All his children have been dead for many years, except Eben and Thomas and the youngest daughter, Mrs. Chloe Pulz. These reside in Windsor.

Ransom Adkins, came from Connecticut in the autumn of 1815 with an ox team and brought his wife and one child. He bought and settled on the north east part of the Juliand

farm, for a number of years occupied by the Whitten family. He worked at his trade as carpenter, built new buildings and improved his farm. He died August 30, 1823, aged 34 years, leaving his wife with five small children. The children's names and dates of births were as follows: Lucy, born in 1811, in Connecticut; Pomeroy H., born April 28, 1816; Adeline and Emiline, born December 17, 1818; Charles Ransom, born May 22, 1822. The eldest daughter, Lucy, returned to Connecticut after the death of her father to live with a relative where she later married Benjamin Hurlburt and never came to New York State but once again, then only for a visit. She died past 60 years of age, leaving three daughters.

Pomeroy H. Adkins, married Eleanor, daughter of Malcom N. Hawkins November 15, 1846. Their children's names and ages were: Ransom H., born October 8, 1847; Malcom H., born April 27, 1851; Fannie Elizabeth, born June 13, 1855; Lucy Ann, born June 14, 1858; Ellen Eliza, born April 12, 1868. Malcom H., married Cora E. Root of Coventry, February 20, 1879. They have since resided on the old Pike farm just south of the county line in Colesville till the spring of 1907 when they sold their farm and removed to New Ohio, on the old McCollough farm. Ransom lives with his brother Malcom. Fannie Elizabeth married William H. Saxby of Windsor, December 25, 1899, where they have since resided. Lucy Ann married Elmer Seeley, June 1, 1866. They lived in Coventry several years, then in the spring of 1898, moved on the home farm of her parents where they lived nine years, then removed to Afton

where they now reside. Ellen Eliza, married Andrew Pearsall of Afton, May 29, 1895. In the year 1898 they moved to Windsor where they have since resided. Mr. and Mrs. Pomeroy Adkins spent most of their lives in Coventry. He spent about two years in Illinois when a young man. In the autumn of 1863 they moved from Coventry just across the line in the town of Colesville, where they resided at the time of their deaths. Eleanor Hawkins Adkins died March 10, 1895, aged 70 years. Pomeroy H. Adkins died March 12, 1895, aged nearly 79 years. There were only 50 hours difference in their deaths. They were buried in South Windsor cemetery in one grave. Adeline Hawkins married Joseph Stevens; died February 14, 1903, aged 85 years. They had one daughter, Lenora, who married Platt Thompson. She died young leaving one son, Henry, only a few months old.

Mr. and Mrs. Stevens spent their married life on the Stevens farm which was located on the road between Church Hollow and Harpursville, Emiline married Daniel Stevens, they resided several years on the Church Hollow road. He was a brother of Joseph Stevens. They afterwards removed to Lisle, Broome county, and spent the rest of their lives in that vicinity. Emeline died in February, 1898, aged 80 years. Her husband having died many years before. Charles Ransom married Pamela Christman, November 1, 1846. Two children were born to them: Mary A. and Charles E. The former died November 24, 1872; the latter resides in Paullina, Iowa, Charles Ransom with his family moved to O'Brien county, Iowa, in the fall of 1877, where his wife died

February 22, 1882. He married Lovina Edgecomb for his second wife. He died March 27, 1900, aged 77 years. Harry Adkins, a brother of Ransom, came from the east about the same time and settled on what is known as the Bradley Simmons farm on the part north of the highway. He had a family of four daughters and two sons: Ransom, Henry, Caroline, Betsey, Eunice and Lucinda. Ransom died when a young man. Henry married, lived in Binghamton many years, died about 60 years of age. He left no family except his wife. Caroline married Richard Stone; they lived on the Page Brook till the time of their death. They left no children. Betsey married Oliver Bennett. They resided on Page Brook at the time of their death. They left one son, Harry. Eunice married Mr. Fineout. She died about middle age, left two sons and one daughter. Mr. Fineout having died some years previous to her death. Lucinda married Rufus Bennett. They resided at Chenango Forks, where she is now living, the only surviving one of her father's family. They had two daughters: Irene and Jennie, both married and died young. Harry Adkins married Polly Clark. They are both buried in the old Chapel cemetery in Coventry. Phoebe Adkins, sister of Harry and Ransom, came from the East, married Mr. Warner and lived near Tunnel, N. Y., where some of her descendants still reside. Roxy Adkins, widow of Ransom Adkins, married John Fowler in the later part of 1824. Their children were: Noah, Hiram, Alonzo, Alfred, Adelia and Frederick. All of these are dead except Noah, the oldest son, who was born Sept. 6, 1825. He married Eliza Ann Packard, March

6, 1851. They reside with their son, Charles J. Fowler, near Church Hollow. Roxy Adkins Fowler died Sept. 24, 1860, aged 67 years. John Fowler died Nov. 8, 1879, aged 83 years. He was formerly from Bennington county, Vt. They were buried in the old Chapel cemetery.

Among those who settled in town quite early was William Tallman, who located about four miles south west of Coventry. I am informed he came from Pennsylvania and raised six children: Miranda, Virgil, Clark, Jane, Callista and Adelbert. Miranda married C. K. Pierce of Coventry; Jane married Whitney Dusenbergh of Windsor; Calista married a man by the name of Ogden; Adelbert married Eliza Kales; Virgil died when 18 years old; Clark was killed in the Civil war.

Reuben Cary came from Massachusetts about 1815, and, I am told settled on the farm now owned by Martha A. West, and lived there several years. Later he bought and settled on the place where he died, known as the George Cary farm, and raised a family of seven children, viz: Charles, Calvin, Gershom, Malancton, Sally, Mary and Lucretia. Charles married Lois, sister of Calvin Edgerton, and later moved west; Calvin married Harriet Holcomb; Gershom married Lucy Converse; Malancton settled in the west when young; Sally married Juvenel Griswold for his second wife; Mary never married, and Lucretia, married Howard Packard.

A family by the name of Converse came from Massachusetts, but we don't know the year. They lived where they first settled and he died in 1849. They had eight children: Jane married Truman Southworth; two sons John and Truman lived in

Coventry, both dead; one daughter, Lucy Jane, married a man by the name of Wood and lives in Cincinnati; Sarah married Nelson Case; Rufus married Mary Dort of Harpursville; Lucy married Gershon Cary; Alvin married Phoebe Beardsley, Polly married Dr. Prentice, and Ellen married James Gillmore. Roxy died in 1855, having never married. The farm is still in the family.

Joel Morse came from Massachusetts and settled on a farm adjoining the Converse farm, but we do not know the dates. He as well as Mr. Converse, run a sawmill in connection with his farm. They had seven children: Austin, who married Basha Ann Vinton; Russell, who married Lucretia Loop; Sally married Joseph Badger; Marvin married Melissa Griswold, and Jerome married Caroline Hurd; Juliand died young; Irene married later a man in the west by the name of Lamb. Joel Morse married for his first wife Susan Munger, who died in 1851. He afterwards married a widow Treadwell, and in the spring of 1854 sold his farm to Jarvis McLane and with his son Jerome went west and died there.

William, John, Amos and Judith Tuckey came from England in 1830 and settled in the town of Butter-nuts. Ten years later Amos and William came to Coventry and bought a farm of Larkin Packard, next south of the Tallman and Converse farms. William married Mary Ann Converse and they raised six children: Mary Ann married William Kasson; Nancy married Marcus Hunter; Olive married Wilson Page; Rosa married George Wedge; James married Julia Garrison, and Jane never married. Amos Tuckey lived

several years on the farm with his brother. He then sold his interest to him and bought out Augustus Smith, adjoining and lived there until he died in 1884, aged 75 years. He married Phebe Perrine Converse, and they raised two daughters: Frances E., who married Ira Fairchild in 1869, and Euphemia, who died in 1909, unmarried. Phoebe Tuckey died in 1872, aged 57 years, and William died in 1875, aged 69 years.

As we have been writing about the early settlers, when they came to Coventry, where they lived, when and where they died, and as Anna Y. Hungerford, was one of the early pioneers we think it would not be out of place to put in a poem here of her 100th anniversary, written by Mrs. Cordelia Beardsley Wilder.

One Hundredth Anniversary of Anna Y. Hungerford, Coventry.

Turn backward the years of time,
 dear mother,
 And let the bright scenes of fond
 memory come,
 When you lovingly watched o'er the
 days of our childhood;
 The days long ago in the old house
 at home.
 You may list once again for the
 echoes, dear mother,
 Of wild rippling laughter, so joyous
 and free;
 You may rock us to sleep, and then
 watch o'er our slumbers,
 While a Father in Heaven shall
 watch over thee.
 You may listen once more for the
 quick, eager patter
 Of swift, tiny feet on the old kitchen
 floor;
 You may smile at our loss, as we
 search for the sunbeams,
 Darting bright rays through the half
 open door.
 We will twine just again the wild
 buds and sweet daisies,
 In your bright, golden hair, as in
 days that are flown;
 We will wait for thy kisses to lavish
 each sorrow,

Dear mother we'll sing the old music,
 "Sweet Home."
 Then we know not a care, not a
 grief, nor a sorrow;
 You lavish each tear with a mother's
 fond kiss;
 You guided our feet in the way of
 our Saviour;
 Dear mother, we'll greet you in man-
 sions of bliss.
 Already thy feet have nigh touched
 the chill waters;
 Thou hast trusted in Jesus, thy
 crown hath been won.
 Dear mother, we'll sing as we jour-
 ney together,
 The soul-cheering anthem, "We're
 All Going Home."

Amasa Ives came to this town at an early date when a young man, the exact time is uncertain. He was a strong, leading character, a man of thrift and influence. He married Patty, daughter of John and Abigail Miles. He united with the church in January, 1808; and when the edifice was cleared of debt in 1820, he was one of the men who paid the highest sum, \$200. Ozias Yale was the other.

Brownell Bulkeley emigrated from Stonington, Conn., to Coventry in 1808. He bought the farm where his grandson Robert, now lives, and built a log house which was his home for several years. He married Miss Dellia Worth of Connecticut, an accomplished and spiritually minded lady. They were remarkably courteous and hospitable, liberal in the support of the gospel and widely respected. Bulkeley was a man of marked personality, successful in his business and consistent in his support of all that was good. When he vacated the log house he built what is now the rear of the Bulkeley home. They moved into it on Saturday and their son, George, was born there the next Sabbath morning. They had three children:

George, Francis, and Julia. The mother, a Christian truly born of the spirit, gave her children spiritual teaching and was careful of their intellectual development. George went to Oxford and Catskill to school; Francis was a graduate of Union College, and Julia went to Oxford and Albertsville to study, and at the last named place she met Mr. Converse, who became her husband. After her marriage she resided at Elmira and her two daughters were graduates of the Female college in that city. Francis Bulkeley went south, married Grace Adams and now has descendants residing at Gadsden, S. C. George Bulkeley lived at the homestead in Coventry and the original house was enlarged to its present dimensions. The parents and son formed one family. Mrs. A. P. Bulkeley, the widow of George, has lived 63 years in the original home of the family, and forty-eight of these years she has been a Sunday school teacher. Robert S. Bulkeley, her son, has been the Sunday school superintendent for eighteen years. Miss Betsey Bulkeley, the sister of Brownell, visited the home of her brother in Coventry and she became the wife of Philo Yale.

Russel Waters came to Coventry in 1808 when 21 years of age, and subsequently married Roxy, daughter of John and Abigail Miles. Ephram Waters, a younger brother, followed in 1816. He married a daughter of Rev. Charles Thorp, the pastor. Later he came in possession of the Thorp farm, situated on the rise of ground a short distance east of Coventryville, where he lived for more than 40 years a life of great usefulness, influential and efficient in all that pertained to the development and progress of church and com-

munity.

The Benedicts formed a numerous family and some of them were prominent in the history of the church. They were children of Captain Benjamin Benedict, who served in the Revolutionary war as lieutenant. He came to Coventry in 1807 from Winchester, Conn., and all the rest of that name came from the same place. Abijah Benedict with his wife, Abigail, removed to Coventry in 1800. They were members of the pioneer church organized in 1807. He was the man that hewed the first stick of timber for the new meeting house. Eliakim Benedict and his wife, Ruth Ann, settled in Coventry in 1801. He was then twenty-three years old. Ruth Ann, was one of the original members of the historical little church of 1807. Eben Benedict, and Miranda, his wife, moved to Coventry in 1803. He was the grandfather of William Henry Benedict, the son of Ira, who died in April, 1904, the year of our centennial. He served the church as a deacon and Sunday school superintendent. He was also the minister's friend, one who united the historical past with the present. Mrs. William Henry Benedict, wife of the above named, has been the poetess of the church, is endowed with a rare gift of metrical composition. The authoress of many choice productions; many anniversary poems of historic and local value, and poems read at soldiers graves at the May day decorations. A volume of her poems printed a few years since exhibits fine poetic ability and is pleasantly valued by her friends. Mrs. Benedict is living among us at this date, 1912, honored and beloved by all who know her. She, too is one who unites the present with the past.

CHAPTER V

A Continuation of the Settlers that Came Later

Reuben Rolph came from Long Island in 1837 and settled three miles south of Coventry, on what is now known as the Dr. Beardsley estate. He had 800 acres of land and owned a factory and made cheese; keeping over one hundred cows, and was very prominent in public affairs in the town. He was married three times. His first two wives were sisters, they came from Long Island. I don't know their names. He had one son by his first wife, named Moses. His third wife was a Phillips of Coventry, and she bore him three children. In 1869 he sold out and moved with his family to Virginia, where he bought several hundred acres of land and farmed it there until his death.

Erastus Butts came to this town early and settled on the Folds farm.

Ralph Johnson, one of the early pioneers, settled in the western part of the town. He had four boys, all good farmers and all strong supporters in the Second Congregational church.

John Burge, emigrated to this town in the thirties, and lived where Claude Wilder now lives.

Matthew Smith, Sr., came about the same time and lived a year or two at the east part, then moved to the village where he lived a number of years. He was a carpenter and was the head workman on the Baptist church here that they are now tearing down. He helped build many of the houses in the village. He moved to the Four Corners west of Coventry, where Leroy Hodge now lives. His son, Matthew Smith, Jr., now lives one mile west of Coventry

on the farm known as the Joseph Johnson place.

Joseph Johnson, son of Ralph Johnson, married Hepsey Stoddard, and lived on this farm till his death. He was a carpenter as well as farmer.

Dr. Frisbie and Tracy Allen came from Connecticut at an early date and settled in the western part of the town. Many are the anecdotes related about Dr. Frisbie. We can't write many but to do justice to the man we must relate a few to show his courage and also his skill as a steel worker. When it was dangerous to travel the roads at night on account of wild beasts, some one offered to bet with him that he would not dare run from the house where T. M. Williams now lives to Coventryville in the night. He took the bet and won in this way. They made some kind of an image as hideous as possible, and placed it in the road about half way and then hid to see what he would do when he saw it. As soon as he saw it he made up his mind that he would not stop if it killed him, and without slackening his run, grabbed the object and carried it to the end of the race. Public travel in those days was mostly by stage coach. Frisbie, with a number of others, was traveling in the southern states in that way. As they were going along over a rough road the heavy load caused the springs to break. The driver stopped and the passengers got out. What to do the driver and the other passengers did not know. Mr. Frisbie asked: "Is there a blacksmith shop near." The driver said yes. Then he said: "We can walk there and get the springs mended." The driver said the blacksmith could not weld them. "Well," said Frisbie, "if he

can't, I can." So they all walked to the shop, took off the horses, blocked up the coach, took out the springs and with help of the blacksmith soon had the broken spring mended and they went to the end of their journey. The driver then asked Frisbie how much he should pay him. He told him nothing. Whereupon the driver begged him to accept as a present \$10, which he did. In after years he made a full set of butcher knives and a wooden case to put them in, each one separate so they could not dull and gave them to James S. Parker, who kept them for many years. When in advanced life, he having no more use for them, he gave them to his nephew, Burton D. Jones, who now has them. I can well remember when a boy of his coming across by my father's when he went to Coventry, and most always stopped to dinner. When squirrels were plenty he always brought his gun and used to shoot more or less of them. One day he took thirteen from my father's woods.

Thomas and Austin Elliott were among the early settlers. They were quite hunters, making a great deal of money from the bounties that were paid. It was hard getting a trap in those days that would hold a panther or bear, so they invented one of their own. One fall when it got to be almost winter and there was not much for wild animals to get, they had an old horse that they thought was not worth wintering and took it out into the woods and killed it, making a pen around it, putting large logs to the bottom and smaller ones as they went up, notching and drawing them in as they went up, leaving a space about six feet square on the top and about eight feet high. The animals had to climb up and down and once

in there they were in a trap they could not jump out. The next morning they would go and shoot them and get the bounty, thus making the old horse worth more to them than a good team would be today.

John Fowler came in from Vermont in the early twenties. I need not speak of his family as they have already been mentioned in connection with the Adkins family.

Oliver Badger came here about 1812 and settled where Henry Spencer now lives. I have no authority to say where he came from, but I presume he came from Connecticut, there is where the most of the early settlers came from. He was prominent in the town and also in the M. E. church, holding several offices in the church. He had a large family of children, how many and what their names were I cannot tell. I have heard my mother say that there were seven that came to school from there at one time; seven from Philo Clemmon's and seven from David Hungerford's, all in the same district and all at the same time.

Whitney Cornish was one of the early settlers, living in the hollow west of W. H. Spencer's. He, too, had a large family. Fred Cornish, living on the S. B. Foot farm, is a grandson, and his family is the only descendants in the town. He also supported the M. E. church.

Let me say right here that there were a good many families that came to this town, stayed a few years and then moved away, of whom I can get no record.

A little later came Augustus Trowbridge, another farmer and good citizen. He was a strong supporter of the Second Congregational church, and had a son and daughter.

Wakely Jones was among the

early ones. His son Henry was known far and near as the best horse doctor in this section of the State.

Uri Watrous, for many years a farmer, was one of the prominent men in the western part of the town; lived where Clifford Wylie now lives. He had three children: Eugenie, who married John Fairchild, afterward T. D. Parker; Jerome, who married Eva Baird, and Nettie J., who married Clifford Wylie.

Of Zera Beardsley no record has been found, but he came into the town at an early date and settled about two miles west of Coventry. Two sons, Augustus and Bronson, both residents of Coventry. The latter was killed in the Civil war. Josiah Beardsley, a blacksmith, lived one-half mile west of Coventry. Stelson lived two miles north west of Coventry; had a son Samuel and a daughter Julia. All three brothers were noted men and came from Connecticut.

Thaddeus Hoyt came to Coventry in 1836. He had a large family. Two sons were ministers, Willard was the founder of the Presbyterian church of Nineveh and for many years its pastor. Ephraim was a Baptist minister and lived at Bath, Steuben county, N. Y., Matthew married Rebecca Stewart. Their children were: James T., who died in the Civil war; Sarah E.; Edward P.; Alice C.; and Emma L., who married Samuel A. Beardsley; one child, Emma. Susan A. Hoyt died Sept. 20, 1851. Mary P., married Vincent White. Their children were: Henry V.; John S.; Thaddeus; William; Vincent and Mary. The rest of the Hoyts lived out of town.

Samuel Griswold came into the town at an early date and settled one-half mile west of Coventryville

on the place which Noyes Griswold now owns. He married a Miss Trumbull. They had five children: Electa, who married Stilson Beardsley; Juvenal, Albert and Frank. Samuel had one son, Lucius. Harry, who married Anadine Gilmore and had one son, Noyes. Egford, who lived a single life.

Perry Gilmore emigrated to this town at an early date. He had a large family, but of only two can I get any track. Anadine, just spoken of, who married Harry Griswold, and Beriah, who married and had a family; one son, Charles, who was a soldier in the Civil war; a pair of twin girls, and one other child. He was a business man, holding several town offices, also a worker in the Baptist church.

Paul Beardsley, in the south east part of the town, was one of the early settlers. He had three children: Seba, Horace and Polly, who married David Hunt. Seba's children were: Sally Ann, a maiden lady; Juliette, who married Theron Reed; Sophrona, who married Hiram Blakeslee; Harriet, David, George and Oscar, who was a Universalist minister. He settled on the place where Eugene Smith now lives. Horace settled on the place where Seba Blakeslee now lives. He married Clarissa Payne and had no children. In the latter part of his life he lived at Coventry. He was a strong supporter of the M. E. church, holding several offices in it and left a dowry for its use.

Enoch Carrington was one of the early settlers. He located about one mile south of Coventry on what was part of James Whitlock's farm. He afterwards moved to the south east part of the town, where his children lived and died when well ad-

vanced in years.

Nelson Wright came from Oxford about 1869 and settled in the south east part of the town. He had two daughters: Mary, who married Edwin Nickerson, July 23, 1879, and Martha, who married Lewis Foot.

Christopher Rogers had a number of children. They all lived in town until maturity. His son, Alphonzo E. Rogers, lived and died in this town. He had four children: One married Chester L. Jones; another married Henry D. Brigham; J. E. and Charles Rogers are now living, the latter has been supervisor, and also held other town offices. He had two sons and one daughter.

John Niven came into the town later and settled three miles south east of Coventry. They had four children. His wife was a Converse. Their daughter, Mary Ann, married a Williams; Matilda, married Ira Nobles; Daniel married Roza Hodge. They had a daughter who married Harvey Smith of Doraville, N. Y., now deceased, but she is still living. A son, Charles, now deceased, who lived in Binghamton. John Niven, Jr., married Emily Tyler, they had two children: George, now deceased, a farmer, and Ella Niven Truesdell.

Harvey Tyler came here in 1816 and settled where Mrs. A. Manwarren now lives. He married Eunice Briggs. He came from Connecticut and had nine girls: Nancy, married a Badger; Harriet, died young; Emily married John Niven; Susan married Henry Plum of Connecticut; Eunice, married A. Hardy of Wisconsin; ———, married M. T. Hoyt; Antha, married L. Manwarren; Mary, married C. Rogers; Helen, died at 4 years of age.

Hiram Parker's Family

Betsey Ann Parker, born Sept. 17,

1826; Susan Parker, born Dec. 3. 1829; Eunice Parker, born Feb. 7, 1832; Timothy D. Parker, born June 1, 1834; Abijah T. Parker, born Aug. 20, 1841. Betsey Ann married Thomas Tift and now lives in Coventry. Mr. Tift is dead. Eunice married Samuel Watrous, lived in Colesville, Broome county; Susan married Frank Williams; Abijah married Catherine Wheeler, lived in Kansas; Timothy D., married Adelaide Smith, afterwards Eugenie Watrous Fairchild. Hiram Parker's grandchildren: Thomas Tift's children, Emogene, Frank, George and Addie. William's family: one son, died in infancy; one adopted son. Samuel Watrous had one daughter, Libbie; Timothy D's., children: Addie by his first wife; Lena, who died when 4 years old; Ray, Ruth and Bessie by his second wife. Abijah's children: Lottie, Catherine and Earl, who died at 12 years.

As early as 1828, a man by the name of Anthony Cole owned the farm adjoining the David Hungerford farm, and died there. Afterwards the family sold the place to Bela Hungerford who kept it till 1845, when he sold it to Oris Tubbs and moved west. Three years later Tubbs sold it to Western Holcomb, who worked it for seven years and ran a coopershop in connection with the farm. In 1855 he sold it to Noah Fowler and moved to Greene. Since then Henry Juliand bought it of Fowler, who for many years rented it to Mr. Whitten, who with his wife has passed away. Their son, Colonel E., and daughter, Phoebe, now live in Greene. Phoebe is teaching school. Her brother Frank is an architect. He had the overseeing of the building of the stone Episcopal church in Greene, and the 14-story

Press building in Binghamton.

Early Incidents

In the days of the very early settlers when fierce wild animals and wilder red men roamed the forest day and night around the log houses of the early white inhabitants, it was necessary for them to build yards for their horses, oxen, cows, calves, sheep and pigs, when they were so fortunate as to own them. They were usually built in this way, by log fence, something like a rail fence, the large logs at the bottom then smaller and smaller until they reached the top, perhaps eight feet high. Then if they left it in that way it was not safe so they would add sharp pointed pickets made of small round poles near each other fastened to the side of the fence or driven into auger holes on the top log, extending up two feet or more. The wolves and wild animals would look a long time before trying to jump over such a picket fence. Such is the protection they had to give their stock at night until they could do better. Even then they would lose some, for they had to let them out days to get food for themselves. Those that had bells for their cows and sheep could usually find them and drive them home for safety. Living here then brought a large amount of hard work and much earnest care and considerable fear for those early settlers, who came to establish homes in the wild woods for themselves and their children. Before they could raise stock for market they had to trust to their eye, their hand and their flint lock rifles to furnish them their supply, which was not easily produced. Mr. Manning was one of the hunters. During the years he passed here, besides all other wild animals he

shot, he brought down with his rifle ninety-nine deer, afterwards he threw a stone with his hand and killed another, making an even hundred. Record Wilber was another hunter. He sometimes left his wife alone in their home in the morning to go in search for deer and would wander so far that when night came on he could not return. On one of these hunts he found himself five miles from home and very tired, so he ate what he had for supper, sat down with his back against a tree and with his rifle across his lap slept soundly during the night. When he awoke in the morning and opened his eyes the first thing he saw standing near and looking sharp at him was what he had sought for in vain the day before, a deer. As he looked at the deer he thought to himself if I only had my rifle I could kill him. By an involuntary motion of his hand he touched it. The deer also saw his motion, and before he could raise the rifle and fire it was out of sight, so he lost him. Being very courageous he never let a chance go by to kill any wild beast that came in his way. He did not keep an account of the number of wild beasts which he had killed, but he took the skin from 43 bears which he had brought down. If they had wanted to they could have dressed in furs every winter. Some of the settlers did use deerskins for clothing and the Indians dressed in them. There was an Indian settlement on the creek near the west side of Mr. Wilber's farm. The Indians often came to his house to borrow things, mostly his rifle and butcher knives. He and his wife did not like to lend them, but did sometimes rather than make them angry, for they were a wild set of red men hardly safe at

best to live among. The creek was well filled with trout and red and white men took them when they pleased, providing they were able to catch them. Mr. Wilber cleared up his farm, built a good frame house and barn, owned considerable stock, was a good liver, and although he worked hard had enjoyed good health and lived within a few months of 100 years of age.

Philo Clemmens came in at an early date and settled in the hollow east of Henry Spencer's. His children were: Wylie, who was drowned when a young man while going down the river with a raft; Deborah, who married Joseph Badger. Their children were Sarah Ann, Chester, James, Lucinda and Mary. Lucinda married Silas Gould and had one child, John Wylie; Jane married Rosell Salisbury; children: George, Sarah, Julia and Harry; Maria, married Hale Salisbury; children: Warren, Wylie and Janett; Polly, married Richard Hinckley; children: Sarah, Watrous, Eugenie and Betsey, who married Uri Watrous. Children: Eugenie, Jerome, and Nettie; Eliza married — Youngs.

Porter

A man by the name of Marcus Porter, an early settler, lived one mile west of Coventry, where Mr. Grover now lives. I have not been able to get a history of the family. I think they came from Connecticut. They were members of the Second Congregational church. I think they had no children and that he was a farmer and was well to do. They both died in a few days of each other in 1872.

The Foot Family

Joseph Foot, an old Revolutionary soldier, came in soon after his son

Apollos, who came about 1788. He settled on the farm where Edgar Waters now lives and had three sons and three daughters. He was a man who accumulated a large fortune and at one time he owned about seven hundred acres of land. He and his sons were business men well known in Coventry, and strong pillars in the M. E. church. Joseph Foot was over one hundred years old when he died. His children were: Apollos, Alanson, and Lodema. Apollos, married Amelia Nicholson and his children were: George who married Sarah Wells. His children were: Leroy, Elizabeth, Amelia, Monroe, Lillian, Anna, Apollos; Isaac married and had no children; Theresa married Delen C. Winston. Their children were: Denison, who married Nancy Elliott; Adelbert and Marion; Jennie, married Stephen Kind, afterwards Laver Chatman; Jenette, married John S. Barnes; children: Charles, Emma, Frank and Theresa. She afterwards married Reuben Palmer. Harriet, who married Madison King. Their children were: Arthur and Mable. Frederick, married Mary Higgin. Children: Frank, Harry, Hattie, Leon and Croy. Floyd died young. Legrand's children: Emma and Walter. Rosa, married William Marble. Children: Eugenie, Floyd, Charles, Ely, Nellie, Frederick, Archie. Melissa married Albert Griswold, and had one son, Albert. Afterwards married Charles Hinman. Children: Balis, Henry, Charles, Ida. Milicent, married Ransom Wright. Children: Apollos, Mary, Jane, Josephine. T. B. Foot married Henrietta Hinekley. Children: Sumner, Deforest, Clarence and Blanch, Ezra Foot married Harriet Cohoon. Children: Nellie, Hattie,

Raymond, Minnie. Alanson Foot, brother to Apollos, married Theresa Hinman. Children: Joseph, Oscar, Melvin, Marietta. Melvin married Emma Griswold. Marietta married William Conover. Lodema Foot died young. Eliza Foot, sister of Apollos, married Charles Martin, and had one son, Charles.

The Porter Family

Samuel Porter came from Connecticut in the year 1808, with two yoke of oxen and a pair of horses. His wife's name was Cibil Munson. Their children were: Stephen, Obadiah, Azubak, Marshal, Samuel, Munson, Sheldon, Loren B. and Leonard. Sheldon married Parmelia Balis. His children were: William, Leonard, Rebecca, Samuel and Stephen. Leonard married Martha Buckley. His children were: Jane, Emily, Samuel, George, Dolly, Lucious who died young, and Julia. Loren B., married — Beardsley. His children were: Eliza, Charles, Lucy, Sarah and Edward. The Porters settled on the place where Fred Porter now lives. The old barn a little north of Fred's house was built in 1809, the same sidings are on it that were first put on, rough pine boards 103 years ago and are in a fair way to last another century. The barn was never painted. Oh, for more of the old hill pine, we would not have to shingle our houses so often. The Porters were all or nearly all farmers and mechanics. At one time they run a chair factory. The house that Edward lives in stood across the creek and was built for a factory. Sheldon moved to the south-eastern part of the town; lived and died there. Leonard lived and died on the old homestead for many years. He moved to Iowa in 1857. Lorin lived and died where his son

Edward now lives.

Spencer Family

William Spencer came to this town about 1797 and settled where Frank Manning now lives. He had three sons and one daughter: Dorcas, who married Leonard Parker and had two sons, Frank and Richard, and one daughter. Zeba Spencer married Polly Blakesley, died and had no children. She afterwards married Moses Allis. Phineas S., married and had a large family. William Spencer, Jr., married Polly Butts and lived where his son Henry now lives. His children were: Betsey, who married Thomas Terry who run a woolen mill at Bettsburgh. Morgan, married Catherine Van Valkenburgh, and had four boys. Sarah, married Robert Odell, and had three children. Nelson H., married Hannah Pratt, four sons and one daughter were the result of their marriage. Byron married Josephine Jones. Franklin married A. Anna Paddleford and had three boys and two girls. W. H. Spencer, married Mary E. Salisbury and had one son and two daughters. He had been quite a prominent man in town affairs and also in the M. E. church. Seba Spencer, kept a hotel here and I think built the one that stands now. Phineas was a farmer. One day while chopping wood he felled a tree across a log and his little child, unbeknown to him, had come out and stood on the other side of the log. When the tree fell the top whipped over the log and killed the child, and he did not know it till he trimmed out the tree and saw her lying there.

Badger Family

Oliver Badger came in here quite early, the exact date is unknown.

He married Lucretia Butts. Children: two boys, William and Orin and a daughter, Elizabeth. Debedire Eliza Butts married a Mr. Leach, had one daughter who married a man by the name of Birdsall, a Baptist minister, and moved to Ohio.

Jonathan Atwater, early settler, lived just west of W. H. Spencer's, and had one son, Gerrett, who lived here several years and had a large family.

The Root family lived where Edgar Waters lives and one son became editor of a paper in Kansas.

Joseph Ackley, an early settler, had a family. One grandson, Charles Ackley, now living in town near the old homestead.

Elisha Porter Family

Elisha Porter, an early settler, came from Connecticut and settled three miles south west from Coventry where Charles Ackley now lives. He had seven children: William, Joseph, Phineas, Norman, Permelia, Julia and Almira. Permella married a man by the name of Hatch; Julia married George Edgerton.

Cornish Family

Whiting Cornish married Temperance Wylie, an early settler about four miles south west of Coventry, date uncertain. Their children were: John, Maria, Lavonia, Temperance, George, Elizabeth, Whiting, Augustus, Sarah, Isabel and Jane. John married Romania Mandeville; Maria married Augustus Trowbridge. Lavonia married first a Moore and second a Weston Holcomb; Temperance married Ezra Conant; George married widow Emeline Treadway Blakesley; Elizabeth married H. H. Cook of Oxford. Whiting Augustus

married Mary Mallory; Sarah never married; Isabell married Rev. Lewis Hartough, a Methodist minister, and is the last of the family; Jane married Dr. Harvey Beardsley.

Scott Family

Victor Scott came in quite early, settled about two miles south of Coventryville. He married Roxanna Lora. Their children were: Lucretia, George, Cordelia, Walter, Samuel, Melvin, Olive. Lucretia married Milton Dickerson, George never married and died young. Cordelia married Frank Salisbury; Samuel was married twice; Walter married Roxanna Newton; Melvin never married; Olive married Silas Beigh.

Elliott Family

Joseph Elliott and four sons, Abisha, Joab, Thomas and Adon, all grown up, came in here from Deerfield, Mass., in 1803 and settled in the south west part of the town. I cannot get a full history of them but what I have I will give. Joab Elliott married Nancy Hendric, of Massachusetts. Their children: Amasa, Eldredge, Cyrus, Edgecomb, Stephen, Andrew, Harry, Franklin and Nancy. Eldred married Man-dame Belden; Cyrus married Annis Beldin; Edgecomb married Sarah Spauldin; Stephen died young. Andrew married Jane Leach; Henry married a Miss Clearweather; Franklin never married; Nancy married Edwin Elliott; Joab, Jr., married Parmelia Mead. Children: Nancy, married Simeon Burrows and had two daughters; Sally, married David Kinsman and had two sons, Austin and Bliss, and one daughter, Augusta; Polly married Alanson Smith. Children: Buushabay, Frederick, Myron, Polly, and three died young; Franklin married Nancy

Hinckley. Two children: Naomi and Franklin; Joseph, married Helen Wylle. Children: James, Dudley, Hial, Lucy and Mary; Betsey married Joshua Harrington. Children: Isabell, Francis, Wesley and Neg; John Elliott married Betsey Gould. Their children were: Jane, Nancy, Lenora, Kindric, Oliver and Hial; Jane married ——— Children: Alice, Eugenie, Bela, Nancy, married and had no children; Leona, married and had one child; Kindric and Oliver never married; Hial married and had one son. Abisha Elliott's children: Marilla, Jerry and Abisha.

An incident is related of Franklin Elliott, when a boy his father sent him to Haynes' mill on horseback with a grist to be ground. It was late when the grist was ready for him and it got dark. He had to go through a piece of woods and the wolves got after him; the horse snorted and run and he had to get his feet up on the grist to keep the wolves from getting him. When he got most home he came into the clearing and the wolves left him.

As we have been writing about so many of the old settlers that have gone through the valley on to the beyond, we think it would be appropriate to put in a poem, written by Mrs. Cordelia Wilder, one of Coventry's poets:

Shall We Know Each Other There

When earth's fondest ties are riven
And we've crossed the swelling tide,
Shall we know our loved and loving
Over on the other side?

Shall we know the shouts of welcome
From the loving ones that wait?
Shall we know them as they're
watching,

Waiting at the golden gate?

Little feet that here have pattered,
Making music all the day;

Little voices wild with laughter,
Driving busy care away;
Little hands that gathered flowers—
Twined them gaily in our hair,
Little lips that kissed us softly,
Shall we know them "over there?"

Shall we know the tender mother,
Though we kiss her pale and cold,
Though her hair was streaked with
silver,

There 'tis tinged with Heaven's gold.
Yes! We'll know the sainted mother
When we clasp her hand again,
When she strikes one cord of music
We shall catch the old refrain.

We shall know earth's dearest
treasures;

Tread the golden streets with them,
We shall join the Heavenly chorus,
Chanting there one great amen.

We shall wear bright crowns in glory
If our crosses here we bear,
We shall know our King our Saviour,
And our loved ones "over there."

Since writing about the old plank road that the Porters' built one-half mile for nothing, I have been informed that they furnished the plank and built the half mile for \$300.

A man by the name of Rollin Sweet came in from Connecticut, date unknown, but it must have been very early, for he had to cut his own road part of the way from Bainbridge. He had a large family, and settled about two miles east of Coventryville. One grandson, William Sweet, is now living in the eastern part of the town.

The Packard Family

Anson Packard came here about 1800 and settled one mile west of Coventry, on the farm now owned by Matthew Smith. Their children were: Sally, who married Caleb Merrill and their children were: Oliver, Nathaniel, George, Ira, Frederick, Ransom, Thomas, Julia, and Mary. Suivia, married Samuel Orsborn; their children were: Allana,

Louis, Emily, Sarah, Ira and Benjamin. Larkin married Amanda Atwater; their children were: Adney, Harriet, Ira, Sylvester, Eliza Ann, Charles, Chester, Lydia, Callista. Anson Packard's children were: George, Stephen, Almira, Ann and Mary. Howard Packard married Lucretia Cary, and their children were: Lewis, Henry, Calvin and Sarah. Lida married Lewis Benedict, they lived in the west. Mercy married Eris Hotchkiss. Their children: Josephine, Lewis and Frank. Hannah, married Adolphus Stiles. Their children were: Emiline, Mercy, Larkin, Jane, Elizabeth and Laura. Laura Stiles married John Kelley of Coventry. One son, Frank, who married Addie Tift, and one daughter, Laura, who married Frederic Porter of Coventry

1815 To Mr. Charles Pearsall 1895

We come on this day so fair and
bright,
Our hearts transfused with its rays
of light,
Till the inner depths most warmly
glow,
And with kindest greetings o'erflow.

In winter time when winds are high,
And snow and sleet go whirling by,
We sit and dream of the brighter
days
Of summer time, with their golden
rays.

Or autumn's harvest born of bloom,
And long to flee from the season's
gloom;

But we know that time will surely
bring
From under the snow the flowers of
spring.

So the years go passing swiftly by,
Awhile with sunshine or clouded
sky.

And we often turn to the happy past,
Days of childhood that could not
last!

Let us look today, there's a picture
bright

Of the old red house, now still in sight;

We see again each pleasant nook,
List to the sound of the babbling brook,—

As its ripples break o'er our small bare feet.

And eyes in sparkling glances meet,
Or sit upon its pebbly shore,
Watching our ship sail swiftly o'er.

Proud ships borne from the old saw-mill,

Bark and sawdust we see them still;
And the gristmills wheel with merry sound

Ever going its ceaseless round.

We know where once the mill-troughs lay,—

But all, like childhood, has gone away.

For a moment we'll enter the open door,

Where ever a welcome is in store.

Cheerful faces within appear;

Ripples of laughter greet the ear;

While a strong man tosses a blue eyed boy,

And a dark-eyed girl fills the cup of joy.

Friend of my childhood, friend of my years!

There are changes we see through a mist of tears,

No longer we linger but turn away,
Let joy rule the hours of the present day.

Why are such numbers gathered here,

With smiling faces and friendly cheer?

Ah! the day will, as the birthday chime

Rings out for one just in his prime.

Eighty years with their joy and pain;

Eighty years with their toil and gain;

Ceaseless strivings and victory won,
To be crowned at last with the glad "well done."

Guarded still with the watchful care,
Of those who your joys and sorrows share.

Many or few as the years may roll,
May you sing "there's sunshine in my soul."

There's a happy bond on the unseen shore,

To welcome you when earth's work is o'er;

Lovingly will they watch and wait
Till you pass to them through life's sunset gate.

James Wylie, Sr., came in from Columbia county, N. Y., in 1799, settled on what is now part of Guy Wylie's farm on the west side of the creek, between the creek and where Guy's house now stands. He built the first Wylie house. James Wylie, Jr., came in with his father, a man of a family, four sons and four daughters. Daniel married a Miss Edgerton; two sons and two daughters. Betsey married William Thomas; two sons and two daughters. James, the third, married Sally Fairchild; five sons and one daughter. Temperence, married Whiting Cornish; two sons and six daughters. Maria married a Mandeville; one son and one daughter. Polly married a Burton; two sons and two daughters. John married Estey Inckley; three sons, Floyd, Burton and James, the fourth. James Wylie, the third, his family: Thomas Wylie, born Dec. 27, 1815. Russel D. Wylie, born Dec. 27, 1817. J. Hoel Wylie, born April 8, 1820; George Wylie, born April 10, 1822; Hannah Wylie, born Nov. 17, 1825, and died Oct. 7, 1845; Hubbard H. Wylie, born Dec. 6, 1827; Joseph Wylie, born Sept 9, 1833, and died Dec. 9, 1845. James Wylie, the third, died Apr. 9, 1854, aged 68 years. Sally, his wife, died May 11, 1864, aged 74 years. Hubbard H. Wylie married Sabra Brown. They had one child, Jessie S., born Oct. 19, 1867; died in Feb, 1886, aged 19 years. Hubbard H., died Jan. 16, 1910, aged 82 years. Thomas, died March 31, 1898, aged 83 years. J.

Hoel died June 1, 1889, aged 69 years. Russel, died June 25, 1896, aged 79 years. George died July 19, 1900, aged 78 years. I think one son of James Wylie, Jr., named Samuel has been left out. He was the father of John and Hawley and several other children. It has been hard work for the writer to get any history of the Wylie family, he worked hard and long, traveled about twenty-five miles, before he could get any information, but at last, many thanks are due Burton Wylie and Mrs. Hubbard Wylie for all the information I have got has come from them.

A family by the name of Woodward, settled in the south east part of the town at an early date, his first name I have not been able to learn. If I have been informed right he was the father of Darius, Heman and Yale Woodward. They were quite prominent in that part of the town. There are several grandchildren in town and some out of town. One granddaughter, Mrs. Charles Bush, lives near Nineveh. Edward Woodward of Coventry is a grandson, and Mrs. Henry Merell in the south east is a granddaughter, and I think there are several others that I do not call to mind.

Stephen Fletcher, son of Joseph and Susan A. Sherwood Fletcher, was born at White Plains, Westchester, county, N. Y., April 12, 1846. About the year 1850 his parents removed to Guilford, N. Y. He attended school at East Guilford, and by diligence and hard work acquired an education so that he had taught school several terms. After which he learned the wagon maker's trade, but his health would not permit him to be shut in doors, and he had to give up wagon making. He next

took up farming and followed it until his death, which occurred on May 15, 1908. On Nov. 5, 1873, he was united in the bonds of holy wedlock with Miss Jennie E. Beale of East Guilford. He farmed it in Guilford and Butternuts till 1886, when he removed to Coventry and lived here and farmed it the remainder of his life. In 1870 he united with the M. E. church at Rockdale and was one of the leading members, being superintendent a good share of the time; always taking part in the choir, and for a good many years in the latter part of his life was chorister. He was quite prominent in settling estates and drawing and proving wills. In politics he was a Republican until the Prohibition party came up, after which he voted the Prohibition ticket.

CHAPTER VI

Early Schools

The first school house in the town was a log structure located about ten rods north of the Frank Pearsall blacksmith shop. Sherman Page the first teacher, then a young single man, was a resident of Unadilla and afterwards became somewhat distinguished as a lawyer and legislator.

Among the first school girls were Roxy Miles, Patty Miles, Hannah Yale and Sally Miles, who afterwards became the wives of Russell Waters, Amasa Ives, Seth Beckwith and ——— Jones. Mrs. Waters died April 10, 1875, aged 85 years; her husband May 11, 1835, aged 48 years. Mrs. Ives died March 16, 1858, aged 84 years, and her husband Oct. 6, 1823, aged 60 years. The first school taught is believed to be as early as 1790. After a few years another school house was built

in what was called the Warren district. It stood between the lands once occupied by Erastus and Joel Judd families, known as the Benedict farm, and was afterwards removed to where Elam Barstow lived, where it remained until after that district was united with the Coventryville district.

Town Officers

The first town meeting was held in the school house near Burrige Miles', Coventryville, on Tuesday, March, 4, 1806, and the following named officers were elected:

Supervisor—John Mandeville.

Clerk—Roswell Marshall.

Assessors—Jothan Parker, Moses Allis, Abijah, Benedict.

Collector—Daniel Wylie.

Overseers of the Poor—Ozias Yale, Simeon Jones.

Commissioners of Highways—John Stoddard, Samuel Martin, Nathaniel Manwarring.

Constables—Daniel Wylie, Jabez Manwarring.

Fence Viewers—Benjamin Jones, Record Wilber, Luther Holcomb.

Pound Keepers—Benjamin Burnett, Nathaniel Manwarring.

Overseer of Highways—George Lowrey, Joel Goodenough, Peter Bowen, John Stoddard, Simon Jones, Benjamin Jones, Wm. M. Thomas, Nathaniel Manning, Henry Allen.

Sealer of Weights and Measures—Oliver Parker.

The following town officers were elected in February, 1880:

Supervisor—James M. Phillips.

Town Clerk—J. D. Guy.

Justice—J. S. Parker.

Commissioner of Highways—D. B. Easton.

Overseer of the Poor—Miles Hartwell.

Constables—Frank Pierce, Nelson

Cohoon, Charles Laman.

Inspectors of Election—District No. 1, Lucius Manwarring, H. C. Ingersoll, H. Willoughby; district No. 2, to be appointed.

Town Auditors—Romeo Warren, C. D. Newton, John Wylie.

Excise Commissioner—Henry Andrews.

Coventry Village

Coventry is pleasantly situated a little north west of the center of the town, about seven miles east of Greene, and nine miles west of Bainbridge. At present it is connected with Greene by daily stage. It contains two churches, Congregational and Methodist. The Baptist church has been sold and has been taken down. A district school, a hotel, the first in the village was built by Henry Allen shortly before 1812 and is now vacant; one general store, two grocery stores, a blacksmith shop owned and run by George Endter; a wagon shop run by Eugene Mallory; a large creamery owned and run by the Dairy Product Co.; a shingle factory owned and run by Oral Dalton; two good carpenters, George Hamilton and Alva Dalton. The village has a population of about 100.

Merchants

The first merchants in Coventry were: Henry Allen, Samuel Scott, Benjamin Jones and Zenas Hutchinson, who kept store in part of Henry Allen's hotel, commencing in Oct. 1810. Dr. Diodate Cushman opened a store in 1818 or '19 and continued as late as 1827, about which time he left the town. George Ryder was associated with him about a year. William Church whose father, Josiah Church, from Vermont, was an early settler in Church Hollow, which place derives its name from

him; commenced business about 1830 in company with David Everett, who sold out soon after, the latter of whom died Feb. 5, 1832, aged 33 years. About this time the business was discontinued. Church returned to Church Hollow and opened a store there. Chandler, resumed business about 1834, with G. D. Phillips, to whom after about a year he sold his interest. Mr. Phillips came from Greeneville, Greene county, and settled three miles south west of Coventry on what is known as the John Beal farm, where he engaged in farming, wagon making and running a foundry, which he continued until he engaged in mercantile business when he moved to the village, where he died Dec. 18, 1872, aged 82 years. His wife lived and died in Coventry at an advanced age. From 1840 to 1858 he was associated in the mercantile business with his sons, Edgar A., and James M. Phillips, under the firm name of G. D. Phillips & Sons. Amasa J. Hoyt became a partner in 1851, and Frederick LeRoy Martin in 1858, in which year the name was changed to Phillips, Hoyt & Martin. James M. Phillips withdrew in 1852, and F. L. Martin in 1860, after which the business was conducted by Phillips & Hoyt, until the death of the former when it was carried on by Hoyt for a time, then by Hoyt & Kelley, and now is being conducted by Kelley & Son who keep a stock of general merchandise.

Romeo Warren, William Church and Edwin Burge bought out Dr. Cushman. After about a year Rufus Chandler, bought out Burges' interest. The business was continued for about two years, when Chandler & Warren sold out to Church, who continued trading some four years.

The grocery business was first conducted in the early sixties, by Alvin Converse who conducted it a few years and sold out to James Shouls, who continued the business a year or two. Then M. D. French used the store for a cabinet shop for a while.

J. S. Parker and son commenced business in February, 1877, and continued it some eight or ten years. H. L. Tower for three or four years and George Lewis some five years or more. About nine years ago A. P. Stanton came there and is now doing a good business. He also has the telephone central in his store.

Postmasters

The first postmaster in Coventry was Dr. Tracy Southworth, who was appointed about 1833, and held the office a number of years. G. D. Phillips next held the office five or six years, and was succeeded by his son, Edgar A., who held it some four years. George Cornish next held the office about two years, till his removal to Bainbridge. He was succeeded by William Church, who was postmaster till about 1860, when his son Charles was appointed and kept it until June, 1861, when Amasa J. Hoyt was appointed. Hoyt was succeeded by Mary A. Kales, Dec. 10, 1877. H. L. Tower then took it for a few years; then by F. A. Kelley, where it still remains.

Physicians

The first physician was Diodate Cushman, who commenced practicing in the eastern part of the town as early as 1813. He afterwards located in Coventry and practiced there until within a few years of his death, which occurred about 1838, while on his way to New York with a drove of cattle. He was also engaged in mercantile business here

and also at Chenango Forks. The next physician was Tracy Southworth, who came from New Berlin during the latter part of Cushman's practice as early as 1827, and practiced here for some ten years. Alfred Griffin came in about 1830, and was succeeded by Ashabel Wilmont, who removed in 1843 to the western part of the State. George Sturges came from Coventryville in 1843, and practiced a year or two. S. B. Prentiss practiced here some two years about 1845-6, and at a meeting of the County Medical Society, June 6, 1846, was made the subject of commendatory resolutions by reason of his contemplated removal. He went to Kansas having sold his practice here to Wm. H. Beardsley of Butternuts, who practiced here till 1869, when he removed to a farm three miles south of Coventry where he practiced till his death. R. Otoman came from Pennsylvania in 1845, but remained only about a year. Dr. Prindle came here about 1850, and practiced some fifteen years. Dr. Frank Beardsley came here while a young man and studied with his uncle, Dr. William Beardsley, and became a prominent physician, a great lecturer on anatomy; spending many years lecturing. He also became a great eye doctor. He went to Binghamton, and I think from there to New Haven, Conn.

James D. Guy was born in Oxford, N. Y., Dec. 23, 1840, and studied medicine at Harpursville, Broome county, with his uncle, Dr. Ezekiel Guy, and at Nineveh in the same county with another uncle, Dr. Timothy Guy. He entered Geneva Medical College in the fall of 1866, and was graduated Jan 21, 1868, in which year he began to practice in Harpursville. He removed thence to

Coventry November 28, 1869, when he practiced for about twenty-five years selling out to Dr. A. A. Guy, a cousin, who stayed here about two years.

Dr. R. Lee Dodge came next and stayed about five years. Then Dr. Evans was here four or five years, and at present we are without a doctor. There is a good chance for some young man to locate here.

Dr. Jesse E. Bartoo was born in Jasper, Stenben county, Feb. 28, 1847. He studied medicine in Dansville, N. Y., with Dr. Preston and with Dr. R. P. Crandall in Greene. He entered the Electic Medical college at Cincinnati in the fall of 1875 and graduated May 19, 1876. He commenced the practice of medicine in Greene that year and continued until the spring of 1879, when he removed to Coventry. He practiced here for a few years and then returned to Greene, where he is now living.

Churches

The Second Congregational Society of Coventry was organized December 9, 1822, at a meeting held in the school house near Plaig Nichols', in said town, which was attended by David Beebe, Samuel Porter, Oliver Trumbull, John Minor, Parson Beecher and many other inhabitants of the town of Coventry. Samuel Martin was chosen moderator and William A. Martin clerk. Parson Beecher, Timothy B. Bidwell and Samuel Porter were elected trustees. The following named persons were members to January 5, 1824: Samuel Martin, David Beebe, Ralph Johnson, Oliver Packard, Samuel Bronson, Philo Scott, Artemas Goodno, Paul Beardsley, Gideon B. Minor, Samuel Porter, Calvin Thair,

Mark Scott, Juna Humiston, Ira S. Beardsley, John B. Hodge, Lemuel Beardsley, Jabez Manwarren, George L. Rider, Timothy B. Bidwell, Gilbert D. Phillips, Sheldon Porter, Diodate Cushman, Anson Packard, Justice Dayton, Reuben J. Warner, James Smile, David Lowry, Parson Beecher, Enoch Johnson, Oliver Trumbull, John Niven, Daniel Rigby, Chauncey Smith, Abel M. Beardsley, Elisha Porter, Case Larkin, D. Packard, Jonathan Atwater, Nathaniel Blakeslee, Elnathan Beebe, Henry Chandler, Reuben Cary, Luther Stork, Joel Smith, Rufus Chandler, Loren B. Porter, William A. Martin, David Chandler, Jeriah Seymour, Zebah W. Matson.

At its organization the society consisted of twenty-seven members who withdrew from the First Congregational church of Coventry for that purpose. In the early part of 1824 they commenced building their church edifice, which was finished during the year and dedicated in the early part of 1825. In 1849 the original building being found too small for the accomodation of the society it was decided to enlarge and repair it, which was done at a cost of \$1,000. The church proper connected with this society was organized June 21, 1845, as the Second Congregational church of Coventry. The original number was fourteen, viz: Calvin Thayer, Curtis Stoddard, William A. Martin, David Beebe, Samuel Porter, Lucy Porter, Phebe Martin, Sally Beardsley, Phebe Case, Margaret Beecher, Arzubak Trumbull, Esther Scott and Patty Porter, all of whom were members of the First church. There has been but few changes in the ministry. The church had but two settled pastors in the early days of its ex-

istence. The first of these was Rev. Ira Smith, and the second Rev. Asa Donaldson, but they served for only brief seasons, the church depending mostly on supplies. The first stated supply was Rev. Seth Burt, who labored successfully while the church manifested a steady increase for the space of three years. In 1829 Rev. John B. Hoyt became the stated supply, dividing his labors between this church and the First Congregational church of Greene. He was installed pastor of this church June 19, 1833, and sustained that relation for thirty years. In 1860, owing to feeble health, Isaiah B. Hopwood, then a licentiate of Auburn Theological Seminary, was invited to labor with Rev. Hoyt a stated supply during his summer vacation of that year. In the early part of 1861, Mr. Hopwood having finished his theological studies was invited to become the pastor of the church to which he assented, but his acceptance was afterwards modified by making the condition that of his being associated with Mr. Hoyt in the pastorate. This being agreeable he was ordained and installed July 15, 1861.

March 20, 1861, the church resolved to raise \$250 for the support of Mr. Hoyt as long as he remained with them. His long and happy pastorate closed by death July 4, 1862, at the age of 68 years. Mr. Hopwood closed his pastoral labors in January, 1863, and was succeeded by Rev. W. A. Smith of Maine, who commenced his labors August 1, 1863, and continued them until January 9, 1865.

Rev. A. J. Buell sustained the pastoral relations from February 27, 1865, to January 6, 1869. A call was extended to Rev. Amos Crocker.

who entered upon a pastorate which continued until January 29, 1878. He was followed in January 1879 by Rev. Dr. William B. Stewart. Rev. George M. Jones succeeded him for nine years. Rev. J. B. Mariam came next for five years. Then came Rev. Mr. Macbeth for four years who was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Williams for three years. Rev. Mr. Cody came next for a year or two. May 1908, Rev. S. R. Warrender, the present occupant came.

In 1831 and '32 the church was visited by a most fruitful revival, 110 persons were received into the church on profession of their faith. Several marked seasons of revival occurred during the pastorate of Mr. Hoyt. In 1834 and '35, 1840, 1843, 1846, 1851, and lastly the winter of 1855. '56, as the fruit of which 340 were received on profession of faith. Following is a summary of its membership up to November 1, 1861, when its membership was 205:

Original members	14
Received on profession	383
Received by letter	123
<hr/>	
Total	520
Dismissed	195
Deceased	75
Suspended	34
Withdrawn	8
Excommunicated	3
<hr/>	
Total	315
Number of members	205

The membership in June 1879 was 184. The average attendance at Sabbath school about 80.

The Coventry Baptist Church

The first meetings by the members of this denomination was held in 1814, and the first organization was perfected the same year. It compos-

ed mainly the members of twelve families who were formerly members of the First Congregational church of Coventry, but believed in immersion. As the early records of the church were lost in the fire, which destroyed their house of worship in 1843, the number of original members cannot now be ascertained, but prominent among them the following are recalled: Oliver Parker, William Spencer, Percy Gilmore, Phineas Nichols, Levi Parker, Oman Gilmore, David Hodge and Record Wilbur.

The society connected with this church was organized September 27, 1819, at a meeting held in the school house near Weat Spear's, which was attended by Levi Parker, Oliver Parker, William Spencer, Percy Gilmore, William Stork and many other inhabitants of the town. Percy Gilmore was chosen moderator and Phineas Nichols, clerk. The Baptist society in the town of Coventry was adopted as the name and Levi Parker, Oman Gilmore and Percy Gilmore were elected trustees. The first church edifice was built in 1819, and was destroyed by fire on the morning of January 1, 1843. The present one was soon after built.

The first ministers were two brothers named Holcomb, who were succeeded in the order named: Revs. Gray, Sawyer, Kellogg, Tucker, Robinson, Birdsall, Parker, Litchfield, Bush, Church, Porter, M. M. Everett, N. R. Everett, Merrills, Turnbull, Beebe, E. T. Jacobs; 1880, Rev. Daniel Reese; 1884, L. J. Douglass, supplied; 1886, Rev. T. A. Matterson; 1890, Rev. George Bowler, ordained in October, 1893; Rev. C. F. Benjamin; 1896, Rev. J. H. Watrous; 1898, G. A. Starkweather; 1899,

Rev. Darby, supplied. For the last fifty years the church has suffered largely from a loss in the membership by the removal of many of its prominent members from its borders and who have gone to help swell the membership of churches in the far west and elsewhere. The membership was 34 in 1880, the attendance at Sabbath school 45.

The church has ordained and called to the ministry: Aaron Parker, Daniel Root, F. M. Beebe and N. R. Everett. The latter became pastor of a prominent Baptist church at Sing Sing N. Y. The church was sold and taken down in 1911.

Methodist Episcopal Church

The first organization of the Methodist society in Coventry dates back to April 20, 1819, in which year a meeting was held in the school house in district No. 6, at which meeting Michael Elder and B. Young, preachers, both of the regular ministers of said society, were chosen to preside, and the First Methodist Episcopal society in Coventry called Union was formed. Philo Clemons, Ransom Adkins, Samuel I. Thomas, Whiting Cornish, Apollos Foote and William M. Thomas were elected trustees.

The West Coventry society of the Methodist Episcopal church, formed in 1829, seems to have been a re-organization of the above society. It was organized at the same place, and if we substitute the name of Apollos Tuttle for that of Ransom Adkins, the official board was the same. A house of worship was erected in 1830, three miles south west of Coventry and occupied a good many years. It has been taken down and

I think it was moved to Belden.

The center of Methodism in Coventry is now in Coventry village. The Coventry Methodist Episcopal church of Coventry village was organized as a separate station in 1849 and their house of worship was built in 1853. The following named pastors have officiated here since 1849: E. D. Thurston, L. D. Brigham, who died shortly after coming here; — Nickerson, Hiram Gee, who was here in 1853 during the building of the church which he labored to consummate: W. M. Spickerman, Wesley Peck, 1854; M. S. Wells, 1855-6; E. H. Orwin, 1857; S. G. Greene, 1858; T. M. Williams, 1859-60; E. Puffer, 1861-3; L. Bowdish, 1864-5; H. R. Northrop, 1866-7; D. Bullock, 1868-70; David Davis, 1871-2; George E. Hathaway, 1873; A. T. Roskelley, 1874-5; L. A. Wiles, 1876-7; William Burnside, 1878-9; A. E. Loomis, 1880; S. Stephens, 1881-2; J. T. Wells, 1883-4; S. H. Wood, 1885-7; A. E. Thurston, 1888-92; L. D. Palmer, 1893-4; D. L. Meeker, 1895-6; J. G. Henry, 1897; W. H. Horton, 1898-1900; D. Sweatland, 1891-4; Austin Mooney, supply for September and October; then D. F. Unangst, supply for five months; Charles C. Volz, 1905; J. B. Wilson, 1906-7. A. W. Cooper supplied three Sundays in June; G. Cook supplied July and August; George P. Markham finished the year. A Summerson, the present pastor, commenced his labors in the spring of 1909.

The membership reported in the spring of 1879 was 82, the attendance at Sunday school was ten teachers and 75 scholars. The estimated value of church property is, church \$2,000, parsonage \$1,000.

CHAPTER VII

Coventryville and Sundries

Coventryville is situated about two miles east of Coventry and is the end of the stage route from Greene. It contains one church, Congregational, a district school, one hotel kept by Luman Miles, built by his great grandfather, Burrige Miles, in 1811; one store kept by William Laman; and a population of about 25.

Merchants

The first merchants at Coventryville is supposed to have been Otis Loveland, who traded some three or four years from about 1801. He was succeeded by Russell Waters, who traded until 1816, when he moved to the farm now occupied by Frank Pearsall. About 1818, Levi Parker built a store on the site of the residence of George Minor, which is believed to have been first occupied by Thomas W. Watkins, whose father-in-law, Burrige Miles, leased the land on which it stood, the condition of the lease being that it should be occupied as a store and nothing else "as long as grass grows and water runs." A part of Minor's residence is still fitted up for a store to comply with the requirements of the lease although it is not used for such. Watkins traded but a few years. John Reed and Charles G. Osborn, traded in the same place under the name of Reed & Osborn until about 1855. George Minor kept a small store on the same ground about two years, when Benjamin Slater from Norwich rented and kept it two years. In the meantime he built the store now occupied by William Laman, which he occupied until 1856, when he sold to Calvin Franklin and Peleg Pendle-

ton, who traded about three or four years and moved to Greene. Harris Briggs and Rufus Cornwell bought out Franklin & Pendleton, and traded some two years, when Cornwell bought out Briggs' interest. In the spring of 1867 Cornwell sold to W. H. Ireland, who carried on the business for a number of years, having been associated about one and one-half years with his cousin, Oliver Ireland, and afterwards with his brother-in-law, Thomas Greene. Then Charles Turner one and a half years; E. M. Nolton two years; George R. Johnson one year, and William Laman, the present store keeper 22 years. The last four merchants held the postoffice at the same time.

Postmasters

The first postoffice at Coventryville is believed to have been established in 1807 and kept by Jotham Parker, about half a mile south of the village, where he also kept a small store. Just when the office was moved to the village and who kept it there, whether Thomas W. Watkins or Russell Waters, who are believed to have followed in succession is uncertain. Waters, it is supposed, held it until 1816, when he was succeeded by Dr. Edward Cornell, who held it until his death, July 19, 1849. He was succeeded by Leonard R. Foot, who held it about four years. Foot was followed by C. G. Waters who held it until about 1857, when Peleg Pendleton was appointed. Pendleton was succeeded about 1861 by Rufus Cornell, who held it until the spring of 1867, when William H. Ireland was appointed.

Physicians

The first physician of whom we have any authentic information was

Ashel Wilmont who moved to Coventry in the spring of 1835. Edward Cornell, whose father was one of the first settlers in Guilford, was practicing here in 1827, and continued until his death, July 19, 1849, at the age of 56 years. Tracy S. Cone came to Coventryville about 1850, practiced about twelve years and moved to South Oxford. Charles G. Roberts located there a few years after Cone left and practiced until the death of his father, Dr. George W. Roberts in Greene, Feb. 10, 1870, when he moved there and took his place. Dwight E. Cone, a nephew of Tracy S. Cone, went there about 1875 and practiced some two years, and is now located at Fall River, Mass. Dr. Bartlett practiced there a few years in the early seventies.

Churches

The First Congregational church of Coventry at Coventryville was organized November 19, 1807, by David Harrower of Sidney, with the following members: Noah Richards, Stephen Dodge, Benjamin Benedict, Abijah Benedict, Benjamin Hotchkiss, Sarah, wife of John Stoddard; Anna, wife of Eliakim Benedict; Abigail, wife of Abijah Benedict; Lois, wife of Stephen Dodge; Beulah, wife of John Hoskin; Isabelle, wife of Noah Richards; Roxalina, wife of Daniel Brown; Hannah, wife of Ozias Yale, and Penelope, wife of Henry Chandler. For several years previous to the organization of the church public worship was maintained in private houses, although there was not a man in the settlement who was a professor of religion. The wives of these New England pioneers, impelled by the early training received in their eastern homes and a desire to perpetuate the sacred office in

their new abodes, incited meetings on the Sabbath. The services consisted at first of reading, singing and praying, and were conducted by a man who was deemed most capable, although he "was not pious." The number who attended was not large at first but they attended regularly, although they lived at remote distances from each other. They struggled in poverty and in the midst of the trials and incidents to a new country their dependance for a year or two for a leader being on one man of poor health and one very aged man, holding their meetings after a time in the school house. But their number gradually increased with new accessions to the settlements, which brought an addition to their leaders in the person of an aged man who came five miles on horseback and assisted them when he could. The reading of printed sermons was soon added to the services. Their meetings continued several years when an old preacher, named Camp, joined them and preached part of a year. He was followed by a gentleman from England, styling himself a Presbyterian or Congregationalist, who preached here a year or two and left in 1807. A sufficient number, either professors or those interested in devotional exercises, had settled in the locality to warrant the formation of a society, and articles of faith and covenant were adopted by each of the fourteen previously named, except Stephen Dodge and Beulah Hoskin, who dissented from the articles respecting the dedication of children in baptism. Numerous additions were made to the membership by baptism and otherwise during the early years of its organization. Twenty-four joined the following

year and in 1823 the membership had increased to 116. September 1, 1808 Christopher S. M. Stork and Noah Richards were chosen deacons. The society connected with this church was organized at the school house in the eastern part of the town at a meeting over which Benjamin Jones and Ozias Yale presided, Feb. 7, 1804. Jothan Parker, James Wylie, Jr., and Christopher S. M. Stork were elected trustees. The name adopted was the First Congregational Society in Greene, of which this town then formed a part. September 14, 1819, the name was changed to First Congregational Society of the Town of Coventry. At this time Rev. Horatio T. McGeorge was the pastor. He was dismissed March 16, 1807. February 24, 1808, a call was extended to Rev. Joseph Wood to preach the gospel in this place. It is presumed that the call was accepted for on September 6, 1808, it was recorded that he became a member of the church. In the fall of 1811, Charles W. Thorp of Butternuts, a candidate for the ministry, engaged to preach for a short time in this place, and on January 13, 1812, the church voted to call him to the pastorate. He was ordained July 8, 1812. Revs. David Harrower, Joel T. Benedict, Joel and Henry Chafin, being the officiating clergymen. Mr. Thorp's pastorate was closed June 10, 1823. He was followed after an interval of two years, which was filled by occasional supplies, by Rev. Ambrose Eggleston, who commenced his labor in May, 1825. June 11, 1827, Mr. Eggleston received a call to the pastorate, and was ordained June 21 of that year. He continued his labors as pastor three years. During his pastorate several members of the

church withdrew to form and unite with the Second Congregational Church of Coventry. In 1830, Rev. N. Gould labored with them part of a year, and Rev. Oliver Hill part of the year 1831 as stated supply. Rev. Daniel Butts commenced his labors in 1833 and closed them the third Sunday in June, 1835. In 1836 Rev. Elisha Whitney was sent by the Home Missionary society, to whom application was made for aid February 8, 1836. He remained one year. Rev. T. A. Ewen commenced his labors May 15, 1836, and closed them in May, 1841. He was succeeded in the fall of 1841, by Rev. Chrispus White, who was installed pastor May 11, 1842, and dismissed April 1, 1851. Rev. G. M. Smith entered upon a one or two years' pastorate Sept. 1, 1851. He was succeeded after an interval of about two years by Rev. William H. Lockard who served four and one-half years. After an interval of one year Rev. Isaac D. Cornell became the pastor and remained seven years, until 1865. An interval of about one year elapsed when Rev. S. S. Goodman began his labors and continued them one and one-half years. After an interval of six months Rev. George D. Horton began an eight years' pastorate. He was succeeded by Rev. Henry C. Cronin, who commenced his labors in December, 1878. In May, 1881, Rev. Warren came, for two years. Rev. Austin Caldwell, three years. 1890, Rev. John F. Geddes, one and one-half years; 1893 to '96, Rev. Joel F. Whitney; 1896 to '98, Rev. R. C. Lansing; 1898 to 1905, Rev. A. McIntyre; 1905 to '07, Rev. A. C. Dodge; 1909 to 1911, Rev. G. P. Linderman.

April 7, 1808, the church voted to

build a meeting house 36 by 54 feet, and the following year the present church edifice was erected. Philo and Ozias Yale scored the first stick of timber used in its construction, and the former drew it to the spot where the church now stands after it was hewed by Abijah Benedict. After the church was enclosed services were held in it for two or three years without any fire, to make the worshippers comfortable benches without any backs supplied them for seats. In this rude structure contrasting so strangely with the comfortable, even luxurious, appointments of our present houses of worship men, women and children assembled in cold winter weather and listened to two sermons each Sunday with naught save clothing of their own manufacture to keep themselves warm. Oh, for more of that spirit today, there would not be so many half filled churches. After a time square box pews, then in vogue, were substituted for the rough benches. The church was remodeled and repaired and a new bell and steeple added in 1840, at a cost of \$1,492, and some twelve years later the interior was repaired and remodeled at an expense of \$500. Only occasional trifling repairs have been made. The church has had a good parsonage for many years. The pecuniary embarrassment of the church were very great and many sacrifices were made in those early days to sustain the gospel. During Mr. Thorp's pastorate the society was confronted with the necessity of raising an indebtedness which stood against it or suffer a loss. Mr. Thorp made strenuous effort to raise the money and after all was raised that it was thought could be, there was a deficiency of \$65.00. In this

dark hour he went with his trouble to Deacon Stoddard, grandfather of John Stoddard, now deceased, who lived in Coventryville. The Deacon was in the field plowing with a yoke of oxen. He sat upon the plow beam and after a few minutes reflection he arose, unhitched the oxen, drove them away and sold them, paying the debt with the proceeds. Such were the difficulties which confronted the little colony in their efforts to establish in the inhospitable wilds of their new homes that religious culture which had hallowed the associations of their native land, and such the heroism and devotion with which they were met and overcome.

The residents of this town still retain more thoroughly than in most parts of this territory the sterling character of their Puritan ancestors. Among the prominent men in early days, noted for piety and energy, were: C. S. M. Stork, John Stoddard, 1st; John Stoddard, 2nd; A. Ives, P. Yale, O. Yale, Philo Minor, B. Benedict, T. Blake, Ishmal Rogers, Russell Waters, and later Eden, Elickim, and Ira Benedict, Moses Miles, Marshal Miles, and still later Jared Bassett, B. Buckley and B. Taggart.

Previous to 1815 the church was connected with the Northern Associated Presbytery. In February of that year it united with the Union Association. June 19, 1827, it was received under the care of the Chenango Presbytery. April 17, 1842, it resolved to ask for a dismissal from the association and stand neutral for a while until prepared to choose where to unite. June 10, 1845, it was again received under the care of the Chenango Presbytery. At present it stands related with the Presbytery of Binghamton.

The number of members in June, 1879, was 150, the average attendance at Sabbath school, 60.

Manufacturers

The first thing the farmers had to sell was lumber and the first of that was pine shingles. Pine was very plenty and they made shingles thirty inches long and sold them for \$1.00 a thousand. They sold good pine lumber for \$4.00 a thousand. About a mile north west of Coventryville, is a steam sawmill owned by Ray Seeley, and built by his father, William, many years ago; and one and one-half miles north is another owned by George Hodge and built by Edwin Ogden.

About three and one-half miles south east of Coventryville is a grist and sawmill which was built some sixty years ago by John Landers and owned for a good many years by his sons, Frederick and John. I think it is not running now. As has been said there was a gristmill, a carding and cloth dressing mill, all combined, a little south of Coventryville about two miles west of Coventry owned and run by Mr. Brainard, who afterwards run the gristmill at Center Village.

The saw mills run by water were many, every little stream had from one to four. I think it would be safe to say there were fifteen or more in the town. Fifty years ago there were four cooper shops running at full blast, two and three men working in each shop. The Laman Bros. told me that they have had six men working in their shop at one time.

The first tannery and the only one in town was built by John Foot about 1805 and was run until about 1890, most of the time it did an extensive business. David Hayes run it for a great many years until his

death which occurred in 1864, after that it was run by John Dibble until about twenty years ago. We feel as though this history would be incomplete without the review of one hundred years. Although I have written a little of it, it contains many incidents and thrilling scenes which I must record, but before the review comes, I think we had better have a poem, written by Mrs. Benedict, the poetess of Coventryville church.

Building for God

Eightieth anniversary of the organization of the First church, Coventryville.

When for their country men can die,
Perchance a garland wreathes
their name;

And in the nation's archives high,
The centuries finds their deeds of
fame.

But men may live and toil, and do
Their duty with persistent will;
And building for the good and true.
Their simple lives with grandeur
fill.

Such men were here! we may not
know

The self-denying love that thrilled
Their hearts, and made them warmer
glow,

While patiently the soil they tilled,
"Now let rise and build for God!"

With one united voice they cry;
Then ready feet the forest trod,
And marked the tall pines stretch-
ing high.

Axes with true and steady stroke
Brought down the monarchs of
the soil;

The sure strong oxen bore the yoke
Of service in the daily toil.

The sills were laid, the rafters rose,
And, slow and sure, the work went
on,

O'ercoming all that might oppose,
Until the "meeting-house" was
done.

Fronting the south it proudly stood;
Was entered by a double door;
Plain and unpainted was the wood,

No fires within, and bare the floor.
By narrow stairs the preacher
climbed,
To reach the pulpit placed so
high,
And if his sermons were well timed,
He upward drew each heart and
eye.

But as improvement makes its way,
Where earnest working souls are
found,

It happened that once on a day,
The ancient-looking house turned
round.

And when the rosy sunshine
streamed

One morning over hill and dell,
Upon a pillared front it gleamed,
And music floated from the bell.

The seats were changed. The pulpit
then

Was taken from its lofty perch
For desk and sofa; that was when
The meeting house became a
church.

Will we not gladly gather here,
And in the same strong, helpful
name

Of Him who led our father's on,
Press forward in the way they
came?

With reverent step these aisles they
trod;

Their voices bent in prayer and
song;

They simply came to worship God,
And counted not the hours too
long.

T'was here the grave old deacons
sat

Serenely, this side, in their pews;
And, while at church, we're certain
that

They ne'er discussed the weekly
news.

Where are the builders? Toiling
hands

And eyes that looked with joy and
pride

Upon this house, that firmly stands
Are closed and folded side by side.

The summer grasses o'er them creep,
The winter snows upon them fall;

Over their graves none pause to
weep,—

Yet "by their works" remember
all.

How changed! Today could they
but view

The place where once, with placid
mien,

They always sat two sermons
through,

With lunch and Sunday school
between,—

What would they think of weary
souls

Who scarce can wait till one is
through?

Though blest with warmth of glow-
ing coals,

With shutters, carpets, cushioned
pew.

I look, but memory fondly throws
O'er all these seats its blissful
rays;

I only see the forms of those
Who gathered here in other days.

The hymns come floating from above,
The grand old fugue, the anthem
bold,

But the lips that sung the Savior's
love,

To earthly songs are hushed and
cold.

We in the earthly temple,—they
In one to mortals yet unseen,
Where floods of heavenly radiance
play,

Yet but a shadow lies between.
Perchance some helpful message,
borne

Downward on trembling lines of
light,

Cheers weary hearts or hearts that
mourn,

Making some saddened moment
bright.

Some day we hope to upward rise,
And join the heavenly, happy
band,

In worship pure beyond the skies,
In temples built by God's own
hand.

But this with years and honor
crowned,

We consecrate, O Lord, to Thee!
Here help and strength our
fathers found;

Here may our labors ever be.

Coventry is an ancient English
covenant town in Warwickshire, on
the Sherburne river, an affluent of

the Avon: about eighteen miles east, south east Birmingham pleasantly and advantageously located in the very center of old England. It is a quaint old city mellow with years, dating back to the early part of the eleventh century, rich in everything of which England may be proud, yet of its antiquity, or legends, or history or architecture, its feudal forms of church and state, is not our province here to speak. We give it honorable mention, a cordial greeting, because it is the venerable grandmother of our own Coventry in Chenango county, New York. Like its grandame, our Coventry is situated almost in the very center of this great Empire State; whilst not possessing hoary or renowned antiquity, yet it can proudly boast of as favorable location, as fine climate, as rich soil, as industrious, contented and intelligent people as can be found in any country. Coventry, Tolland county, Connecticut, in the north east part of the State, was so named by people settling there from this same old Coventry in England; yet of the circumstances and the time of its settlement there is no record. It is at present a quiet, prosperous New England town, with all modern facilities, two Congregational churches, one Methodist, one Episcopal and a Catholic. Some men, both great in church and State, had their birth in this place. Nathan Hale, the veteran spy of the Revolution, was a native of this town; Harlam Page of Tract Society fame, belonged to this place. From here a goodly number of men entered the ministry, among them Rev. Badger connected with the American Missionary Association. With dates and personelle not at all uncertain, we can therefore

trace the origin, right and title to the name we bear.

Coventry of the Empire State, then is the legitimate daughter of a worthy mother. All three, daughter, mother and grandmother, redoubtable factors in the world's life and history, living and vigorous, yet independent and almost unknown to each other. With few exceptions these early settlers came from Connecticut. This immigration from the homeland occupied a period of thirty years, 1785 to 1815. New England life has left its impress upon the steady habits and intelligent character of the people to this day. These men and women too, for we cannot ignore the fact that it takes the man and the woman to make complete humanity; the man to conquer nature, and the woman to beautify and adorn the house. These persons were not God's in the old fabulous scene, nor were they giants in the scripture sense. They were strong, hardy, vigorous pioneers, able to battle with the difficulties of a frontier life and to solve the problem of building homes and planting a Christian civilization on the very outskirts of the forest world. Worthy successors of the early sires of the Mayflower. The forest was dense, the trees of great size, wild game plentiful, panther, bear, wolf, deer and small game in abundance. It needed the sinewy body, the brawny arms, the active brain, the level head of the old Puritan stock to swing the ax, fell the trees, clear the fields, build the log cabins and plant the first crop, to sow the first seed in the virgin soil. This stamp of brawn and muscle only could succeed in the wilds of such a wilderness to claim the country for God and civilization and to make it the

habitable abode of cultured men and women. This honor belongs to the hardy sons of New England. No other type of men would have been equal to the undertaking. We of today are apt to discount the old-time Puritan. We imagine him gloomy, morose, unsocial, aggressive, tyrannical, domineering, overbearing. Some of this may be true, much of it is a great mistake. He was genial, healthy, robust, natural; a tremendous will power; a man for emergencies; a meddler with things difficult and greatly inclined to undertake the impossible. His theology made him the man he was. It is theology that made him the man; that makes the nation; that makes the people. The old New England Puritans would ring from God, *nolens volens*; the agreement, the pledge that he was, without doubt or forfeiture, one of the elect children destined for all eternity; a chosen man of the Almighty. With this consciousness he was a power unconquerable, invincible. Nothing impossible with God on his side. No other consideration can account for or explain the reason why New England has so stamped itself on the national life. Such were the forefathers of this country; well and nobly did they do their part in the modeling of the grand old Empire State.

The first settlement in Coventry was in 1785, and just three years after this the first school house was built, indicating that the settlers located here with great rapidity and educational faculties were therefore a need. This school house was built of the same material as the house at that time, a log structure. It served a threefold purpose of school house, meeting house and town hall. The

building stood about one-fourth of a mile south of this village, on the other side of the brook, about seven rods to the west after crossing the bridge on the road to Afton, on lands now owned by Frank Pearsall. Sixteen years ago in this house where we are now assembled, in the presence of an appreciative audience the one hundredth anniversary of the relic of the past was celebrated. Hon. Edgar A. Pearsall and Mrs. William Henry Benedict did honors to the occasion; the one by his eulogy, the other by a poem rehearsed in eloquent and appropriate language the history of the old log school house. A memorial stone should mark the site to keep it in perpetual remembrance. Wherever the New Englander went his theology went. The religious usages of childhood, youth and early manhood could not be effaced. Church members or not, he was accustomed to regular attendance at the house of God every Lord's day, and this habit followed him into his frontier forest home. Before building the school house the people met on the Sabbath day from house to house, to read the scriptures, sing and pray, though none of them were professing Christians. The wives of these New England pioneers, influenced by their early home training, were the chief promoters of the Sabbath gatherings. The Christian world will never know how much it is indebted to the Godly women of the early settlements. Although a few in numbers and the people living far apart, these services were regularly maintained and the number increased by new comers. The building of the house of worship was a serious undertaking the country yet scarcely settled, and but little wealth, yet

enterprise and perseverance overcame all obstacles. The building was reared and enclosed but resources failed and there it must rest awhile. Several years elapsed before its completion. The form of the building was square and it faced the south. Rough plain benches served for seats, the only heating apparatus, the foot stoves brought by the women from their homes. The pulpit, a small box like structure, midway between the floor and the ceiling, reached by a narrow stairway. Usually there was a sounding board above the pulpit, over the minister's head to force the voice downward to the audience. In summer time worship, setting on rough benches might be agreeable but in the severity of the winter it would be a difficult affair. Imagine a congregation in the coldest of the weather sitting on those hard seats, wrapped in their warmest homespun clothing. The minister in a heavy overcoat buttoned up to his chin on his head a heavy woolen or silk skull cap, holding a service for two long hours or more in which he dives deep into the mystic lore of speculative philosophy, of intricates, phyological research of the unfathomable depths of God's infinite being. His eternal decrees, and his wonderful plan of salvation for the redemption of a lost and ruined world.

The people listening in respectful attitude give close attention to the spoken word and you have a picture of a devout worshipful assembly of the olden times worthy of our deepest and profound regards. Such were the fathers and mothers of Coventry one hundred years ago, earnest and sincere worshippers of God. Up to the present date affairs stood thus: 1785, the first settlement; 1788,

the first school house; 1804, the first society organized; 1807, the first church assumed righteous life; 1809, the first meeting house erected. The first general election of the town was held the 29th and 30th days of April and the first day of May, and Gen. Benjamin Jones was elected Member of Assembly.

An amusing incident is told of Gen. Jones' journey to Albany to take his seat. Travelers then had to find their own conveyance and Mr. Jones fell in with a teamster, who was going to Catskill, and bargained for a ride. The journey was long and Mrs. Jones therefore prepared for her husband a well-filled box of provisions. The first night out he had some doubts as to the propriety of a member of the Assembly carrying a lunch box under his arm, agreed with the teamster to take charge of it when they arrived at the hotel and at a suitable time, invite Mr. Jones to eat with him. Under the circumstances the teamster condescended to do so and all went well. At the proper time the teamster opened the box and proceeded quietly to eat his supper without any courteous invitation to his legislative associate. Mr. Jones, after waiting some time, suggested to the teamster that as the victuals looked tempting he felt much inclined to partake with him. The teamster looked up and in an unmannerly way replied: "You can if you want to, of course, the victuals are good!"

A story is told of Burrige Miles, which should not be left out of this sketch. The log hut which became his dwelling when he first came into the country, was the log house already built by Royal Wilkins, but no door as yet had been hung and a

heavy blanket was kept to supply the place. A blazing fire on the hearth was expected to burn all night to frighten away the wild animals. With loaded gun at his pillow, Miles slept the first night in his unfinished hut. In the late hours of the night, a panther stuck his head through the blanket and gave a fierce howl. The sleeper sprang from his bed and seizing his gun, found the fire had gone out. He could perceive only the fiery eyeballs of the wild animal and his unerring gun dealt death to the intruding brute.

Mrs. Eunice Stork and three sons, Christopher L. M., William and Luther came into the country in 1792. The husband and father was a sea captain and out on a voyage at the time of the immigration from the homeland. On arriving at port he followed his family. But a frontier life was too tame for him and he returned to the charge of his vessel which proved his last voyage. The ship foundered at sea and went down with all on board. Christopher L. M. Stork's name stands prominent in the organization of the parish and also of the church in 1807. He was elected to the office of deacon in 1808. He was tall, strong and of a vigorous physique. He owned a large farm and also carried on the business of tanner and shoemaker. When crossing the Hudson river, his valise fell into the water and on reaching the shore he ran down the stream in advance of the current, waded into the river and seized the valise as it came floating down. A fortunate thing for him as it contained all his available worldly wealth and about \$450. The wallet which held the money is in the possession of his grandson, Russell Stork.

A story is told of Deacon Stork, which illustrates his vigorous individuality. One day a panther came for prey in his cattle yard and the Deacon and his man, Elliot, pursued the animal to a tree in the adjoining orchard. As the two men approached, the animal sprang furiously toward them only to meet the unerring bullet which laid him dead with his claws fastened in Elliot's boots. The Deacon stooped and grasped the brute by the feet and by the strength of his sinewy arms lifted him as high as he could reach and the animal measured just the distance between stalwart Deacon's hands and the earth.

The Storks came from Cheshire in their manhood prime. Christopher L. M., with his wife and three children, his wife making the journey of four hundred miles on horseback with babe in her arms. The household goods accompanied by the other members of the family were carried on a sled drawn by a yoke of oxen. The other two lived outside of the immediate community. One granddaughter of Christopher L. M. Stork is now living in Coventry; Mrs. Albert Seymour, to whom we are indebted for considerable information.

The following extract from the history of Harpursville gives a brief incident of the early settlement of the Jones'. The original owner of the J. Warren Harpur farm was Simeon Jones who came from Coventry, Connecticut, and settled in 1795. Later the property came into the possession of the Harpur family and is known as the Bryant farm. Mr. Jones as a pastime, would occasionally indulge in a fascinating recreation, at least to Mr. Jones, of filling a basket with rattlesnakes,

killed on the hills back of the house, placing them upon his back, and take them home to try out the oil. At that time rattlesnake oil was very valuable.

In the spring of 1788, Gen. Benjamin Jones, a cousin of Simeon, settled on the Youmans farm on the east side of the river. Gen. Jones was a commanding officer in the U. S. Army and saw service in the Revolutionary war. The Jones families are numerous in the Susquehanna valley. The removal from the valley to the hills of Coventry of Gen. Jones came about in this way: Soon after moving to the Youmans farm his horses got away. They were followed by a pathway with only blazed trees as a guide to Harpursville, on to Belden and up into Coventry, where they were found. The impression was so favorable that he sold out and settled in Coventry.

An incident is related of the family of Simeon Parker. One Sunday while the family were at church, two brothers, who were left at home to keep house went to the spring, and there found some cubs which they supposed were little dogs. They had a fine time with the animals, the mother bear all the time, unnoticed by the boys, sat a short distance away, apparently unconcerned, watching the performance. The parents upon returning home, were terrified at the peril of their children and rejoiced in their providential escape.

As already stated of the Stoddards, there was a family of ten children. Curtis, the eldest, was a strong, muscular well built man and it is said on good authority that he cut ten acres of wood every year until his farm was cleared. In speaking to Mr. J. J. Stoddard, I asked

him if this was not an incredible feat? He answered, yes and no, and said some of those men could swing an ax with incredible dexterity and an acre of forest timber would fall before it with seemingly no very great effort.

This incident is related by Curtis. One day when in the woods, chopping about noon, as the tree that he was cutting down began to topple and fall he heard the voice of his little boy calling him to dinner. Looking up, to his consternation he saw the child standing directly in the way of the falling tree. As it fell it bore the body to the earth, the trunk of the tree lying across the body of the child. As rapidly as strength and skill could work a tree was cut a short distance above where the boy lay, and with the strength of a giant he lifted the stump section from the prostrate body and flung it aside. He then lifted his unconscious child in his arms and carried him to the house. As the news of the accident spread, men came rapidly to make inquiries and render assistance. Some visited the scene of the accident and declared that it would have taken the strength of five men to lift the trunk of that tree which Curtis did under the excitement of the occasion. Wonderful to relate the child regained consciousness and fully recovered.

Benedict

Benjamin Benedict moved to Coventry in 1820. He was deacon of the First Congregational church in Winchester, Conn. In the church book is the record: "March 9, 1821, Deacon Benjamin Benedict, and Sylvia, his wife, recommended from the church

at Winchester, Conn., were received as members of this church." The church voted likewise that Deacon Benedict officiate as deacon in this church.

Deacon Ithuel Blake and his wife, Wealthy, hailed from Winchester, Conn., in 1818. Wealthy was a daughter of Deacon Benjamin Benedict, and Ithuel was a man of great simplicity of character and led an exemplary life.

Ithuel Rogers united with the church in 1812, recommended from the church at Greenville, Mass., from which place he had moved at an early date.

Benjamin Taggart and Mehitabel, his wife, though perhaps the latest comers and the farthest away, yet their punctuality and faithfulness to all church service became proverbial, and the influence bore fruit towards a respectful observance of Christian responsibility and the service of God.

Last but not least comes Hon. Charles Pearsall, who for many years a member of the church, by his vigorous individuality, skillful financial management and wise council, bore the church bravely onward to the approach of its centennial year. Although he did not live to see it, passing away in 1897, yet by his untiring zeal did as much for the permanent prosperity of the church and to make the anniversary of 1904 pleasurable and a possibility. He is one of the links uniting the present with the past.

Early Incidents

The history of the early years is replete with remarkable incidents not yet recorded but worthy of a prominent place in the record of church and society. We gather a few of them and the following is a

characteristic of frontier life. The two Miles brothers, Simeon and Moses, had been chopping all day in the woods and on their way home were met by a bear. As they had no guns Moses suggested that they drive him towards the house and capture him. Simeon, who was urging the beast onward approached too near and the animal turned and seized him in his forepaws. As the bear opened his mouth Simeon thrust his hand down his throat and seized the roots of its tongue and held his grip until Moses run for a gun and dogs, when the animal was speedily dispatched.

Another incident was related of Amasa Ives, who was a strong leading character in the settlement. One morning he heard an unusual disturbance in the sheep yard. Hastening out he saw a wolf in the midst of his flock. He rushed upon the animal, caught him by his hind feet and swinging him round and round, took as soon as possible his pocket knife from his pocket, opened it with his teeth and cut the hamstrings, threw the wolf down and run for his gun.

A story is told of Epaphras Waters and of his proverbial regularity at church service. Every Sabbath, rain or shine, snow or sleet, he went to church. One Sunday morning in winter he drove his horse and sleigh to the door, left the horse standing and went into the house to put on his overcoat and while doing so the church bell began to ring. The horse recognizing the familiar sound started at a brisk pace for the meeting house and when Mr. Waters came to the door, behold his steed was gone. He followed hard after and on reaching the church found the horse standing

quietly in his own stable in the church sheds. He turned him around and went home for his family. This is a fair sample of Christian punctuality of those days.

Many of the men were not only finely developed physically but of great strength. To conquer the wilds of nature this was a dire necessity, and here is an illustration. Deacon Philo Minor and John Stoddard, Sr., were together at the cider mill and three barrels of cider were loaded into Deacon Stoddard's cart. As the oxen were headed into the road and up the hill the cart body not being fastened down tilted and the barrels rolled some distance down the hill. The deacon followed with his oxen and cart and lifting each barrel of cider placed them in his cart with as much ease as if it had been a basket of potatoes.

There were also in those days political honesty as well as Christian integrity. There were three voting places in the town, and Deacon Ithuel Blake, who had charge of the ballot box, would carry it to each place with the uncounted votes and no one thought of impeaching his uprightness. Ye scribe thinks it would be better if we had more such honesty in politics today. Those were days of privation and toil, hardihood and endurance necessarily attended a frontier life, but they were all bravely borne. Frequently by message from home and encouraged by new comers, their isolated conditions were only temporary. As time moved on the land was cleared, the country became more settled, families and homes the order of the day. The customs and wages of the people were duplicate of those in the old Connecticut homeland;

gathering in each others houses in the winter evening where bountiful refreshments were served and the social side of life enjoyed.

Church History

To be a professing Christian in those days was a matter of some consideration; no person entertained the thought, unless truly converted to God and intending to adorn his profession by a consistent life. Yet, for all this expulsion, contrition, confession, reinstatement, if not of great frequency, yet the church was by no means a stranger to the exercise of discipline in the maintenance of her purity and integrity. Nor yet without an occasional church trial; when some recalcitrant member is arranged and either tenderly admonished, severely reprimanded or as a last resort cut off from the fellowship of the church. The oversight, though brotherly, affectionate and forbearing, was minute and the censorship of times tempered with vigor. In temperance, Sabbath breaking, profane language, neglect of church meetings, association with excommunicated persons, were the chief misdemeanors for which church discipline were administered. As an instance, a certain brother, who to the dishonor of the church of Christ and in violation of his covenant obligation, had been for a long time habitual if not total neglectful of the worship of God in his family; that is the continuous neglect of family prayer, was complained of for said neglect. The church considered it a case of lawful discipline and the brother was admonished. He pleaded as excuse his want of confidence and lack of ability to perform the duty. The

church refused to consider this excuse sufficient and after repeated admonitions and lengthened forbearance he was publicly excluded. Another instance indicating that while it might not be a sin to drink, (total abstinence being as yet scarcely a possibility) yet to get drunk was a very unchurchly thing and called for discipline, and the expulsion, the confessions, the declamation, are rather plentiful along this line. A certain brother was labored with for indulging too freely in the use of strong drink. He made humble confession yet he afterwards asserted that he was not so drunk but what he could attend to business. This people whose church centenary was commemorated that day, believed God, believed in the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; believed in her ordinances as a means of salvation; believed in a consistent Christian walk in life, and a hope of blissful immortality. May many centennials fall to her lot. However, incomplete and defective this sketch may be, it would be still more so if it did not record honorable mention of the eightieth anniversary of our church, 1807-1887, twenty years ago, celebrated under the ministry of Rev. Augustine Caldwell while pastor of the church. The address of the occasion is the admirable product of his pen; rich in historic statement and anecdote. A few in common to both—his pages and ours—but many stories related by him which could not be related here. It was also accompanied by a very felicitious poem, written for the occasion by the poetess of our church, Mrs. Henry Benedict. The address and poem are in print, published together and we hope will be preserv-

ed in the archives of the church as valuable contributions to its history.

Revivals

The church has been neither barren nor backward in aggressive work for the conversion of souls and spreading the gospel. Many outpourings of the spirit and gracious revivals seasons have fallen to her lot in the years of the century we commemorate. In the month of January, 1808, when the church was a year old, while Rev. Harrower of Sidney, of revered memory, was giving to the little congregation temporary and voluntary service a revival blessing came with an addition of about twenty persons to the membership, besides the baptism of many children. During the ministry of Rev. Thorp there were three revivals. In the first three were seven persons, in the second twenty, in the third forty, in all seventy-six souls added to the church in his ministry of eleven years. In the ministry of Rev. Eggleston, the church suffered a temporary decrease, as twenty-seven members took letters of dismissal to unite with the Second Congregational church of Coventry. In the ministration of Rev. Fitch just one year's pastorate, 1832, another gracious outpouring of the spirit came and seventy-eight were added. While Rev. Butts was serving the church twenty were brought into the fold, the fruit of a revival. The pastorate of Rev. Wright was eminently successful, during the nine years large additions were made. During the ministry of Rev. Horton forty were added. The pastorate of Rev. Cronin was wonderfully blest, eighty persons came into the church, some whole families came together.

In taking extracts from the cen-

centennial celebration we would not think it complete without the two poems, one written by Mrs. William Henry Benedict, about seventy-eight years of age at the time of the centennial and who is still living at this date, 1912, in her 87th year. The poem was recited by her granddaughter, Miss Ann Matterson. The other by Rev. Elijah W. Stoddard. The centennial poem by Mrs. Benedict follows:

I surely now am dreaming! for I stand
Within the dark old forest; and no hand
Is near to aid me if I linger here,
And for a moment my heart thrills with fear;
For here wild beasts have freely roamed at will
For centuries perchance over vale and hill;
And the dark Indian with wily tread
Through the dim labyrinths has swiftly sped
Till inroads made by hardy pioneers
With primal ownership now interfere.

But see! the pines tower upward toward the sky,
Ever low music giving, like a sigh,
The weary heart might breathe when sorely riven,
And seek solace for its grief from heaven.
But joyful songs from many feathered throats
In richest harmony around one floats.

Hark! Axes ring. The heavy strokes
Bring down the giant pines and staunch old oaks
See through the opening, upon yonder hill
The smoke is rising floating up at will;
Another settler, come from far away
Has built, I see, his snug log house to stay.

Welcome to all new comers with one heart
They in each others welfare bear a part.
From isolated homes when falls the night

Huge fireplace logs send forth a cheerful light,
Helping to keep the prowling beasts afar
From lowly doors where timid dwellers are.
And more and more are coming every year
'Till soon the wilderness will disappear.

I hear the brook, by which the school house stands,
Built many years ago by willing hands;
Surely none must unlearned and ignorant grow
In the new western home they sought and so
To say was but to do, they did not wait
But built of logs in seventeen eighty-eight.

Then anxious scholars gathered at the door
And on slab seats studied their lessons o'er.
Ah! Here it is, did I not hear a song
I've heard before? but since, time seems long.
There! now again, I hear the voices blend
In Zion's songs and prayer and praise ascend.

I enter as one says: Today we've met
To talk of that on which our hearts are set,
The memory of prayer and Sabbath bells
Have touched a cord that with emotion swells.
Down East, in homes where our lov'd kindred dwell,
They keep thanksgiving. Oh, we know how well,
And we remember too, the reverent way
In which we passed the quiet Sabbath day.

We can no longer live and pass it by;
To keep it as we used to, all will try:
For one must pray, and a sermon bring,
And the old hymn, why, surely all can sing.

Those not professing Christians at
the time

A record made of faith, strong and
sublime

And bound them in the wilderness
they trod,

Close to the worship of their fathers'
God.

Later was formed, so records note
it down

The first religious parish in the
town.

The dream of long ago is surely o'er
I waken,—it is nineteen-hundred
four,

And I am told our grandfather knew
That all I dreamed of them was real
and true.

The winding brook still ripples on
its way,

Singing as when its course through
forest lay.

Grasses on its banks and wild
flowers blend

And to its waters graceful willows
bend.

Green fields and cultivated acres lie,
Through the vale and crown the hill-
tops high.

Where once marked trees guided the
traveler's course,

Good roads and telephones now in
force

And in the toil of others we are
blest.

The house by them its beams were
laid,

Its timbers raised by them in place
where since they've stayed

Enclosed and finished with rude
seats,—no fire,

What but true worship could their
hearts inspire?

With just our comforts, Ah! what
could they say.

To enter here, where calls the bell
today.

Their work is done; by highest pur-
pose wrought

In every labor of their hands were
taught

The principles that ruled them in
their lives

And in descendants still we trust
survives.

To one recorded deed their names
were set,

To which to celebrate today we've
met.

We lift the veil over a century cast
And bring to mind our heroes of
the past.

In the afternoon services Rev.
Elijah W. Stoddard, gave a truly in-
teresting talk entitled, *Reminiscences
of Early Settlers*. He referred to
nearly all of the families represent-
ed in the church in his boyhood
days, taking the families in order
along the various streets. He closed
with a poem, in which were woven
the names and some personal illu-
sion to the twenty-three ministers
who have been pastors of the church
during its history. The poem by
Rev. Elijah W. Stoddard follows:

Our fathers' God whose loving care
appears

On all the records of a hundred
years,

As we review a century today
We would acknowledge Thee in all
the way.

The one great shepherd of the chos-
en flock

Who gathered at the fountain of the
rock,

Or pastures on the ever living green
That lies around the fold across the
stream.

The under shepherds numbered
twenty-three,

Each shaping part of this full cen-
tury.

First on the list we find the name of
Camp,

Then Rev. Wood held up the guiding
lamp;

Rev. Charles Thorp in answer to
much prayer.

Was granted for eleven years of
care

The harvest which resound an in-
crease yields

In many garden spots and many
fields.

Then Ambrose Eggleston, and Gould,
and Hill,

Proceed Octavius Fitch, revered still
By families to whom his ministry
Was the great blessing of the cen-
tury.

The Rev. Daniel Butts, has left a
name

That faithfulness and diligence may
claim.
The shepherd's crook passed to
worthy hands,
Rev. McEwen fed the shepherd's
lambs.
Elijah Whitney then the standard
bore
And Chrispus Wright nine full years
and more,
Then G. M. Smith for two years well
could toil
And W. A. Lockwood seeded the rich
soil;
His four years and a half were
blessed indeed,
As reapers gathered this well scat-
tered seed.
Seven fruitful years to Carroll was
assigned;
To Goodman eighteen months and
then we find,
For G. P. Horton, eight eventful
years
Whose fruitage in this pleasant day
appears.
To Rev. Weeks two happy years
were given;
Then Rev. Cronin by the grace of
heaven
Bound many sheaves which Warner
helped to store
And Caldwell came to glean and
garner more.
Then Gaddes passed; and Whitney,
staunch and true,
Then Lansing; then the pastor
whose review
Of all the years has made the circle
one
We trust his work of love has just
begun,
That it has years of precious min-
istries
For the great garner of the cen-
turies.
With these,—the pastors and their
ministry
The office bearers of the century,
Have honored place and endearing
name
On her church record and her roll
of fame.
C. T. M. Storks, and Gideon Rich-
ards, with
John Stoddard, senior, in their ser-
vice live;
Benjamin Benedict, a Godly man,
John Stoddard, junior, wise in
work and plan,

And Philo Minor, with Ithuel Blake,
And his Alanson E., of kindred
make,
With Thomas Yale, and honored
Pearsall, tell
Of faithful care that guarded Zion
well.
Branch Morgan, too, and N. G. Hunt,
endeared
By all that makes life esteemed,
revered;
Then William Albert Stoddard,
whose desire had
Been to meet with gathered son and
sire
In the centennial service of this day,
But in his wisdom God has called
away;
But with the great assembly, he is
given
To greet the church of sainted ones
in heaven.
His loving, faithful, gentle, ministry
Has done its part in the last cen-
tury,
And may his mantle fall on suc-
cessors strong
To serve the church for which he
wrought so long,
Until we cross the river one by one,
and
Hear the welcome of our father's
home,
And share the service and the min-
istry
That has the ages of eternity.
The honored fathers of the olden
time;
The noble mothers with their zeal
sublime;
The little band that meet to praise
and pray,
To honor God upon the Sabbath day;
And all the membership of all the
years,
As in the century name by name
appears,
In some department holding each a
place
To give the help to some sweet
Christian grace.
The Sunday school in missionary
bonds,
In all that serves in home or foreign
lands,
In each endeavor of a passing hour,
To do its best to add new zest and
power,

To make each year more useful than
the last,
Uplifting ever by a worthy past.
The sowers and the reapers are as
one,—
Those gathered here and those
gathered home,
The sons and daughters of the other
shore
Are watching for our father's open
door.
As we bind sheaves that ripen on the
plain
Because they scatter wide the golden
grain
Inspiring us to leave a legacy
For all the years of the next century.
Benediction
The dove of heaven descend and
rest
Upon our sacred shrine,
Light, life, and faith,—the heavenly
zest
Through all the century manifest
Within its walls combine.
Thus with our house, and hope of
peace.
A Sabbath comfort prove
Nor Father, Son, nor spirit cease
From every burden to release,
And fill each cup with love.

CHAPTER VIII

Sundries and Secret Societies

The Masonic Lodge was formed in the early fifties. It increased to about sixty members and continued for many years. It is now disbanded. The Sons of Temperance at one time had a large society which flourished for a long time. Coventryville had a society of Good Templars for 32 years with about 40 members. It had also a society of Red Men with 97 members, was organized in 1895. It afterwards moved to Coventry and is now disbanded. There is at present a society of the National Protective Legion. The Grangers have a society here which has flourished rapidly in two years.

Agricultural Items

Chenango county has been the banner county of the old Empire State for many years, according to the number of acres, in producing butter and cheese. Four counties have produced more, but they were all larger counties. In 1855 this county produced 3,990,564 pounds of butter, 1,212,544 pounds of cheese. Coventry came within one of being the banner town of the county according to the number of cows. Greene came first with 125 pounds to the cow; Coventry second with 117 pounds to the cow. Coventry produced that year 250,270 pounds of butter, 6,510 pounds of cheese, 15,795 bushels of potatoes, 31,330 bushels of apples, 936 bushels of winter grain, 56,952 bushels of spring grain, 1,343 yards of domestic cloth. It had 534 horses, 1,771 working oxen and calves, 2,140 cows, 2,272 sheep, 1,121 swine. It harvested 5,606 tons of hay.

Sundries in 1855

Value of real estate, \$464,715; personal property \$43,450, total \$498,165. Population, male and female being equal, 842 each. Number of dwellings, 333; number of families, 357; freeholders, 214; school districts, 12; number of children taught, 740, average to a district, 53 1-3.

Coventry Soldiers that Are Dead.

Soldiers of the Revolution.

Joseph Fairchild, Sr., who served three years. Joseph Foot, father of Apollos and Alanson, served seven years in the prime of his life and died at the ripe old age of 100 years, three months and twenty-one days. Joseph Pike was an old Revolutionary soldier. Robert Hawkins

too old to bear arms in the Revolution, but served his country as a guard in the forts of the patriots. Heth Kelsey, Oliver Packard, Record Wilber, David Hodge, Samuel Porter, Benjamin Jones, Captain Jothan Parker, Burrige Miles, Captain Job Yale, Benjamin Benedict.

War of 1812

Tracy Allen, Roger Edgerton, Gilbert D. Phillips, Ira S. Beardsley, Gurdon Johnson, Matthew B. Smith, Josiah Beardsley.

Civil War

Samuel S. Smith, died April 16, 1867, aged 48 years. Martin V. Shaw, died Dec. 27, 1882, aged 45 years; was a member of Co. F. First N. Y. Vet. Calvary. Rev. Samuel A. Stoddard died Nov. 24, 1886, aged 51 years; was a member of Co. K. 24, N. Y. Calvary. Calvin Wells, David Snell, Bronson Beardsley, John W. Wilder, Oscar E. Foot, Oris Tubbs, John Spicer, Charles Finch, Hezekiah Knickerbocker, John Shaffer, Stuart Wylie.

Doubtless there are many others buried in the cemeteries unknown to the writer. I mention those that I have found. During the Civil war, from 1861 to 1865, this town furnished 125 or more men to go as soldiers. Many never came back, some that did were injured for life. The first man to enlist was Nelson Spencer. His brother Franklin following him under the first call, for three months volunteers. Frank was wounded at the first battle of Bull Run, came home, got well and enlisted again. Later in the war his brother Henry went also. No one can realize the privations and sufferings of a soldier in time of war but those that have been there and passed through and lived to return

home, that know its costs are the most thankful for peace and we should all unite with them in thanksgiving for its blessing. The war cost this town many thousands of dollars in bounty and other expenses, which the town was wise to pay all up in a few years by taxes while farm produce was high.

Courts

In the early days of this town, from 1800 to 1840, there were for some reason or another many who thought their supposed wrongs could not be settled only by law, and as the tongue was an unruly evil it set many of them going. The Justices of the Peace had considerable business to do; for often one would sue another for some small offence. The justice would plead with them to settle, but many times they would not, being determined to bring the case to the court. It would have to be a jury trial or else a justice case where three justices would set as judges to hear the evidence and render a decision. If the three agreed all the better, if not then two must agree in order to render a verdict. One of the most successful ones whose decisions were sustained by higher courts when appealed to was Zenas Hutchinson. He was Justice of the Peace for 24 years and the best read lawyer in the town. Many cases were brought before him and tried. In most cases his decisions were final, but very few appealing from it. He also had a large amount of writing to do, in drawing deeds, mortgages, contracts, notes and other business papers.

In drawing contracts for leasing farms, or any other transaction, they wished to express in it, he would tell them to put in the contract

every identical thing they had talked over and each agree to it in order that no loophole be left for trouble to jump through. Many people in those times did not have ready money to pay for things they wanted so thinking a better pay day would come they gave their notes; many of these were left with him to collect, in which he was successful. But as times have grown better and people have more money less of such things has to be done by Justices of the Peace. A few of the Justices of the Peace of this town were: Calvin Blakeslee, Daniel Hayes, Romeo Warren, Bela Seymour, James S. Parker, Nelson Hunt and Charles Pearsall. These all having finished their work here passed into the beyond from whence no traveler returns. The present ones are A. B. Minor, D. N. Hunt, J. Kelley, Warren Smith and F. M. Manning.

Schools

Coventry has always been noted for its good teachers and district schools, and in the early days some very large ones. About 1815 it is thought that Zenas Hutchinson taught at Coventryville. He had his mind and hands full as all teachers did in those days, there being a scarcity of books and but few alike many of the scholars had to recite alone, which made extra work for the teachers. Then they had to take paper similar to our foolscap, make it into writings books, rule it, make their own pens out of goose quills and keep them in repair. Thus keeping the teachers at work most of the time. Many times when needed they heard their individual scholars recite before and after school hours, besides having to do many things that teachers of today know nothing about. How teachers

managed so well in such small school houses with so many scholars is a mystery, for during that term he had 101 scholars, and many of them were grown up young men and young women. As time went on children began to decrease. In 1828 Susan Hungerford taught in that district one term when many of the older scholars were at home, but 73 came to school. Teachers' wages in those days were magnificent, they received their board as they went from place to place around the district, and for five and one-half days teaching per week, one dollar and twenty-five cents, the highest price paid then for female teachers. She and her sister Maria both taught several years. Mr. Hutchinson also taught eighteen years. Some of the teachers that came later: Gideon Minor, Harvey Beardsley, Lucius Manwarren, James S. Parker, Ezra Foot, Charles and Ira Fairchild, Albert Griswold, Napoleon Elliott, John P. Thorp, William, John and Ira D. Manning, and many others both in the east and west part of the town that the writer does not call to memory.

New York and Erie Railroad

This company was organized in July, 1833. The act authorizing the road was passed April 24, 1832. The first preliminary survey was made in 1832 by Dewitt Clinton, Jr., by order of the government. In 1834 the governor appointed Benjamin Wright to survey the route, who assisted by James Seymour and Chas. Elliott, begun the survey May 23, and finished the same year. In 1835 the company was organized and forty miles were put under contract. In 1836 the comptroller of New York State was directed to issue \$3,000,000 State stock to aid in

constructing the road. In 1836 the State released its lein on the road and authorized the original stockholders to surrender two shares of old stock and receive one share of the new. April 8, 1845, a branch was allowed to be built from Chester to Newburgh, nineteen miles. The road was opened as follows: From Pierpoint to Goshen, September 22, 1841; to Middletown, June 7, 1843; to Port Jervis, June 6, 1848; to Binghamton; December 28, 1848; to Owego June 1, 1849; to Elmira October, 1849; to Corning, January 1, 1850; and to Dunkirk, May 14, 1851. Distance from New York to Deposit one hundred and sixty-two miles. The mention of this railroad is given here because it has connection with a plank road that was built from Deposit through the different towns to Coventry. Deposit being the nearest railroad station then to Coventry and the other towns along the road. A plank road was built from Deposit to Vallonia Springs, half way to Coventry, and as that was the most feasible way to get to the railroad from Coventry, on such a grade, was no doubt the reason it was built. A company was organized consisting of the leading business men and farmers along the line from Vallonia Springs to Coventry. It was called a stock company, each one taking as much stock as they desired. It was built mostly in the year 1851 and finished in the spring of 1852, the last plank being laid in the village of Coventry and was built in sections by contractors. It has been told to the writer that in order to have it go where it does by the homes of Loren and Leonard Porter, instead of over the route where the company wished it to be built, they and their families would

build one-half mile of the road without any cost to the company. This they did although it was not known whether the company furnished the plank or not. There was a four horse stage that run each way and met the Deposit stage at Vallonia Springs, carrying mail and passengers. In 1852 they took off the four-horse stage, and run two horses for three years, then a one horse stage for four years. It was used as a toll road for seven or more years. Owing to the cost of repairs amounting to more than the tolls, it was sold to the towns for \$300, who removed the plank and made a turnpike road of it. Before the railroad was built to Deposit all of the merchants' goods had to be drawn from Catskill by teams or shipped up the Hudson river to Albany, thence on the York and Erie canal to Utica, thence down the Chenango valley canal to Greene, then hauled to Coventry by teams. All the butter, cheese, pork, beef, wool and all other farm produce had to be shipped away with the same conveyance, which would now be called slow freight.

Town Fair

The first town fair ever held in Chenango county was held in the village of Coventry in the autumn of 1855. The most energetic and successful people of the town believed it would be nice and pleasant to bring together the produce of the farm and show each other, free of cost, the things they were able to produce here in Coventry. Accordingly on a certain day they came together and the writer well remembers it. It was a beautiful Autumn day in October, bringing with them corn husked and on the stalk, grain threshed and in the bundle, vegeta-

bles of many kinds, horses, oxen, hogs, sheep, poultry, etc. The ladies also bringing with them their work. It was an open fair held on the church green west and south of the Baptist church. The stock was shown in a lot on the south side of the road. The people were so well pleased with their pleasant and profitable gathering that they decided to hold another fair the next year, 1856, at Coventryville, which they did with a like enjoyable occasion, being more encouraged than ever to let people see what they could raise. It was said that Charles Fairchild took the first premium on his steers, they being the best broke. The next year, 1857, an agricultural society was organized. Wm. Kales was president, Merit S. Parker was secretary and Lucius Manwarring marshal. The writer fails to recall the names of the other officers. In the autumn of 1857, the society leased a number of acres of land of Luman Miles, just south of the school house in the south west of the village. Around this they built a board fence. Mr. Dort came from Harpursville with his pile driver and drove the chestnut posts. On these were spiked 2 by 4 pieces running lengthwise and then boards eight feet high were nailed thereto. It made a durable fence which withstood the weather for over 20 years. The ground was prepared, a floral hall was built, pens were made for stock, a driving track was made and eating stands were put up where the hungry public could be fed. The fair that year was a very large one for the times, farmers and others taking a lively interest therein. People came from far and near to enjoy a good time and they had it. That year the ladies had a driving

contest with one and two horses. Mrs. Thomas Tiftt took the first on driving two horses; Mrs. Fred Bunnell first, and Eunice Parker second, on single horse. Fred Bunnell also drove "Morgan Tiger" and exhibited him as an extra broke horse. The fair was held after this for several years, and was called the best town fair in the county, with varying scenes of interest and enjoyment up to 1864, when it closed. One year the Sons of Malta appeared, about 40 men on horseback, masked and dressed in odd costumes. They rode around the track followed by Andrew Rockwell masked and dressed like an Indian with colored feathers on his head. He rode on a donkey and gave exhibitions, showing how the Indians jump on and off their ponies and shoot game with their bows and arrows. The company also publicly initiated one of their members on a platform. From that descending into a tub of water was an inclined plank. Blindfolded they pushed the candidate down the incline and he went splashing into the water, which furnished lots of fun for the spectators. Another year there was a drawing contest to see whose oxen could draw the most. Three yoke, one owned by Ben Foot, one by Scoville Parker, and another by Bela Seymour, were hitched to a stone boat loaded with stone. Mr. Seymour's oxen were light, Mr. Parker's weighed over 3,000 pounds, and Mr. Foot's 2,800. Foot's oxen took the first prize. The writer remembers seeing the contest. Another year they had a walking match and a yellow horse owned by Charles Hinman took the first prize. It is believed that Frank Griswold's horse took second. During some of the years there were contests of the best

broke steers. Charles Fairchild had some there in 1857 which were well broken, but did not receive the first prize because George Juliand, had two pair there that were broken and driven by Hiram Fowler. They were large, well matched, handsome and well broke and they of course took first prize. Farmers in those days were raising many Devonshire cattle, red beauties they were, and many of them were seen at the fairs, from calves to cows and oxen. There were some common grade and some short horned Durham cattle exhibited also. There were many exhibits of sheep and lambs, long wooled ones took the lead. In August, 1860, John S. Tarbell, proprietor of the Franklin house, Montrose, Pa., sent a horse to Andrew Rockwell and Douglas to break it of the habit of switching and kicking when hitched to a wagon. In sixteen days from the time they took him they exhibited him before the Susquehanna County Agricultural society hitched to a sulky, also at the Pennsylvania State fair and New York State fair, as well as at several county fairs during the fall of 1860. Only a few of the many incidents of these fairs have been given, but we will call them ended and say a few words about Messrs. Rockwell and Hurlburt, it being a most fitting place. Soon after they gave their horse exhibits here and at the fairs in 1860, they bought two more horses, one named "Star," the other a milk white horse named "Mazeppa," and broke them the same as they did the first one. With these and a few men they started on the road traveling from place to place giving a school at each place. They taught the young men how to break colts to drive and horses of their bad habits.

They gave to each one their book, "A Practical Treatise on Horse Breaking" and taught them privately how to do it for which they received from each student \$5. Hobbs Brothers of Nineveh made them a wagon for which they received a large price, in which they made their trips. In 1868, they left their home for the last time and started on their western journey giving schools from here to California. Wishing to go farther they took passage on an ocean steamer for either Oregon or Washington. During the voyage the ship was struck by another ship and sunk with all on board. The Pacific was their tomb in which they were quietly layed to rest; there to peacefully sleep till the resurrection morn.

War of the Rebellion

At a special town meeting, held September 5, 1862, 131 votes were cast for and 30 against a proposition to raise by tax \$1,500 to pay to each of thirty volunteers the sum of \$50 as a bounty for enlisting, the men so enlisted to apply on the quota of the town under the call for 600,000 men. March 4, 1863 the board of town auditors issued three bonds for this amount and the expense connected therewith, the first to Apollos Foot for \$550, at six per cent., payable January 1, 1864; the second to R. Chandler, for \$546.24 at six per cent., \$246.24 payable January 1, 1864, \$300 payable Jan. 1, 1865, and the third to T. D. Porter, for \$450, at six per cent., payable Jan. 1, 1865. At a special meeting Jan. 2, 1864, 49 votes were cast for and 4 against a resolution to pay \$323 to each person enlisted and applied on the quota of the town (21 men) under the call for 300.-

000 men. E. A. Phillips, James S. Parker and Daniel Beecher were appointed a committee to draft the necessary papers and report the most feasible way of obtaining the money. On the recommendation of the committee the officers consisting of the board of town auditors were instructed to issue and sell the bonds, in the sums of \$50 to \$500. James M. Phillips and S. F. Allis were appointed a committee to act with the board. To carry out provisions of this resolution bonds bearing seven per cent interest were issued as follows:

17 four years' bonds	\$100	
each		\$1,700 00
17 three years' bonds	\$100	
each		1,700 00
16 two years' bonds	\$100	
each		1,600 00
2 years' bonds	\$50	100 00
15 one year bonds	\$100	1,500 00
4 one year bonds	\$50	200 00
		<hr/>
		\$6,800 00
71 revenue stamps at 10c		
each		7 10
		<hr/>
		\$6,807 10

At a special meeting held April 11, 1864, it was decided by a vote of 32 to 4 to authorize the board to pay such sums as they deemed necessary, not to exceed \$500 each to the requisite number of volunteers to fill the quota of the town under the call for 200,000 men; and on that day the board issued bonds numbered from 72 to 78 both inclusive amounting to \$2,200, and April 25, 1864, a like number from 79 to 85 in like amount bearing seven per cent interest and payable January 1, 1865. At a special meeting held August 2, 1864, 127 votes were cast for and 38 against a reso-

lution authorizing the board to pay such sums as they deemed necessary, not to exceed \$500 to each volunteer credited on the quota of the town under the call for 500,000 men, and the same provision was extended to persons who might be drafted under the call. At a special meeting held August 22, 1864, it was resolved to extend the same provision to persons furnishing substitutes under that call. At a special meeting held Sept. 10, 1864, it was resolved by a vote of 128 to 24 to so amend the latter resolution as to pay to each person furnishing an acceptable substitute the sum actually paid to such substitute deducting all bounties received by the principal from the government not to exceed \$1,000; to authorize the board, if they in their judgment deemed necessary to pay, not to exceed \$1,000, to each volunteer required to fill the quota under that call; and to receive the resolution to pay \$500 to drafted men. Pursuant to these resolutions the board issued Aug. 29, 1864, twelve bonds, amounting to \$3,150 payable Jan. 1, 1865; and Sept. 19, 1864, 54 bonds amounting to \$24,490, payable \$10,780, in 1865, \$11,410 in 1866, \$1,200 in 1867, and \$1,100 in 1868. At a special meeting held Dec. 31, 1864, it was resolved by a vote of 131 to 36 to pay each volunteer credited on the quota of the town under the call for 300,000 men a sum not to exceed \$600 for one year's men; \$800 for two years' men, and \$1,000 for three years' men. The same provision was extended to persons furnishing substitutes, but they were in no case to be paid a greater sum than was actually paid for such substitute. Pursuant to this resolution bonds

were issued as follows: January 9, 1865, bonds 67 to 78, both inclusive, amounting to \$3,150, payable, \$900 in 1866, \$1,350, in 1867, and \$900 in 1868; January 18, 1865, bonds was 79 to 96, both inclusive, amounting to \$7,638.50, payable \$1,600 in 1866, \$2,138.50; in 1867, \$2,700; in 1868, and \$1,200 in 1869. January 26, 1865, bonds was 97 to 109, both inclusive, amounting to \$6,350, payable \$1,050 in 1866; \$4,800 in 1867 and \$500 in 1868; and Feb. 14, 1865, bonds was 110 to 114, both inclusive, amounting to \$1,467.50, payable \$1,300 in 1867 and \$167.50 in 1866. As we have just been writing about the Civil war we think it would be very appropriate to put in a poem written by Mrs. Cordelia Beardsley Wilder, in the time of the war of the rebellion.

Say, Must Our Country Perish?

Say, must our country perish

With all that's true and brave,

The arm of right and freedom,

Be powerless to save?

Must we fling down our banner,

To worthless traitors' yield?

Our heroes lie unhonored

Upon the battlefield?

Hark! Hark! There comes an answer,

That's pealing loud and long;

We go to join our brothers

Three hundred thousand strong.

We yet will save our country,

We know we can, we must;

We'll take the traitors' banner,

And trail it in the dust.

'Twill be a tearful parting

To bid loved ones adieu

But they will bravely cheer us

And tell us to be true.

Our country shall not perish

Our hopes shall not be crushed,

For God will surely bless us,

And aid the cause that's just.

Oh, 'tis a fearful struggle,

A nation's blood to spill,

But the Union, now, forever!—

Shall be our motto still.

Oh, yes! We'll surely conquer

The traitors; they must yield,
And we will bear in triumph
Our banner from the field.

CHAPTER VIII

Personal History. The Beale Family

William Beale came from Lester-shire, England, in 1841 and settled at Gilbertsville, later removed to Coventry and settled in the south western part of the town. He had five sons and three daughters. Ann Beale married John Bawling of Butternuts. Joseph Beale married Anna Maria Hancock, of Syracuse; had eight children. Grace married Abel Gipson of Mt. Upton; had one son. Jennie E. married Stephen Fletcher of East Guilford. Alice F. married John A. Parker of Guilford; had two daughters. Edgar L. married Lena Phelps of Unadilla; had one son. Gertrude L. married David Sibley of Butternuts; had one son. Minnie E. married Clayton Taylor of Sidney. Frederick J. married Laura Fuller of Owego; had two sons and one daughter. Lillian N. married Joseph Hyett of Guilford; had four sons and two daughters. William married Emma Jenkins of Butternuts. John married Margaret Webb of Butternuts; had three daughters. Sarah married William North of Silver Lake, Pa.; had three sons and one daughter.

John Beale married Maryette Webb of Butternuts, N. Y. Their children were Rosamond, who married Henry Packard of Coventry, now living in Greene; has one daughter. Carrie, married Russel Cookingham of Poughkeepsie; had one son. Mary married Vernall Arnold. Elizabeth married Isaac Hancock of Syracuse; had three sons and three daughters. George Han-

cock married Mary Fletcher of Binghamton. Mary married Martin Pearsall. Edward C. married Gertrude Weller. Joshua Beale married Sarah Hurlburt of Harpursville. James Beale married Lucretia Cary. Mrs. Jennie Fletcher is the only representative of the Beale family now living in the town of Coventry.

Kelly Family

John Jacob Kelly was born in Laiching, Withingburg, Germany, Feb. 4, 1808. His wife, Rosma Hasken, was born Sept. 14, 1802. Mr. Kelly was a weaver by trade. His three children were all born in Germany. In 1852 he came to America and in 1854 his family came, consisting of his wife, two daughters and one son. Maria, who was seventeen years old; Anna, fourteen years, and John nine years of age. They settled in Coventry and Mr. Kelly worked for Phillips and Hoyt as long as he lived. His death occurred Sept. 9, 1862, at the age of 54 years. His wife died Aug. 5, 1887, aged 85. Maria married George Mangold in 1861, who came from Germany with the Kellys; they had one son, John Henry, who is now living in Coventry. He married Adelaide Connelly Eells, and had one son, Carl, who married Virginia Van Woert of Coventry and lives in Binghamton; also one daughter who died when about two years old. Mr. Mangold worked for James Phillips for a good many years and bought a farm and farmed it the remainder of his life. He died in 1907, aged 72 years. His wife is still living, and is quite well and in her 77th year. Anna married William Seeley; their children are Charles, who married Miss Cora Deland; children, two sons, Frank and Carl. Ray married Miss

Grace Palmer; had two sons, and Ernest, who married Miss Nina Hall and had one child. John Kelly married Miss Laura Stiles of Coventry in 1869, and had one son, Frank, who married Miss Ada Tift, and has one daughter. Laura married Frederick Porter, and had one son and one daughter.

John Kelly began clerking in the store of Phillips & Hoyt when quite a small boy, and by being saving and industrious he began to save some money. He clerked it for them until the death of Mr. Phillips, and then he went in partnership with Mr. Hoyt, the firm being Hoyt & Kelly, until he was unable to do business. After Mr. Hoyt resigned he took his son Frank in company with him, under the firm name of Kelly & Son, and the sign hangs there to this day. He has been one of the leading men in the town for a good many years. He has been Justice of the Peace for 16 years, and town clerk several terms. He has been very prominent in the Second Congregational church.

Eells Family

Edward Eells, son of Benjamin and Hannah Hanford Eells, was born in Walton, Delaware county, May 20, 1828. He received his education in the schools of that place and when a young man he went to Deposit and learned the tinner's trade. In 1852 he was united in marriage with Juliette Bennett, and had one child, Delos Rockwell. In October, 1853, his wife died. May 23, 1856, he was again united in marriage with Miss Emily McCall. She was born March 23, 1835; their children were Francis Isabel, Granville McCall, Adelaide Connelly, Benjamin Marvin, Edward Hanford, Emily

Juliette, Junius Baird, Georgie Phillips, Clarence, Sophronia Sisson. In 1859 he moved to Coventry, worked at his trade for Phillips & Hoyt till within a year or two of his death, which occurred in 1894, dying in the asylum.

Chandler Family

Rufus Chandler, son of Deacon Henry and Penelope Chandler of Brattleboro, Vt., who came to this country at an early date, was born April 11, 1878. His parents being poor and having a large family he was bound out till he was twenty-one, to a man who went to one of the southern States, I think it was Virginia, and he went with him. His education was acquired at the common schools which were not as good then as now and the people did not think as much about keeping their children in school in those days as they did to keep them to work. When he was twenty-one the man gave him a pair of horses, wagon and harness, and a little money to bear his expenses to come to Coventry. On his way north he traded the two horses for three, and if my memory serves me right got some boot money, and from that on he was always speculating in horses and buying cattle and driving them to Orange county. He was a great drover in his day. He also engaged quite extensively in farming, owning several farms. He was quite prominent in public affairs having been supervisor several times, and other offices he has filled in the town. He represented this district in the Assembly in 1858, so history says, but I think there must be a mistake in the date. I know he was Assemblyman, I can remember back to 1853 and I can't remember

it. He was a sharp shrewd business man and acquired quite a large fortune. In the latter part of his business life he was associated with his son-in-law, James M. Phillips, and Augustus Martin in the drover's business. They went to Ohio to buy cattle and drove them to Orange county, keeping several men to work driving cattle. In those days you would see large droves of cattle, some two or three hundred in a drove, and sheep by the thousands going through Coventry every week or two. He also was connected with Zerah Spencer and William Church in the mercantile business, the former of whom died Feb. 5, 1832, aged 33 years; about which time the business was discontinued. In 1834 he resumed business with G. D. Phillips, to whom after about a year he sold his interest. History says he was again in the mercantile business some two years with Romeo Warren and William Church but it don't say whether it was before or after he was in company with Mr. Phillips. He was a strong pillar in the Second Congregational church of Coventry. On June 10, 1822, he was united in the holy bonds of wedlock with Miss Laura Benedict, daughter of Ira and Anabrit Packard Benedict, born March 4, 1799. They lived together 56 years and had one daughter, Lydia M., born Aug. 28, 1827, who married James M. Phillips. I forgot to say that Mr. Chandler was Colonel in the militia for a number of years. Lydia M. Phillips, wife of James M. Phillips, and daughter of Rufus, and Laura Chandler, died April 23, 1874, aged 47 years. Laura Chandler, wife of Rufus Chandler, died July 12, 1879, aged 80 years. Rufus Chandler died Dec. 28, 1883, aged 85 years. Loisa M., daughter

of James M. and Lydia M. Chandler Phillips, was born Jan. 12, 1862; married Julius Doerner; died April 19, 1887. James M. Phillips died Dec. 18, 1900, aged 77 years.

A poem written by the late Chauncey S. Williams.

Concluding Words

In the years of the past the forest came to stay,

God in his wisdom planted them here and there;

For a boom and a blessing to man in his day,

With rivers, creeks and showers, He watered them with care.

High were their heads, to receive the kiss of the sun,

The home of the deer, the mink, the fox and the hare;

Their trunks so long and great, had a century outgrown

The climbing sport of the squirrel, the wildcat; panther, and the bear.

The red man came to dwell beneath their shade,

To kill his game with bow and arrow, and fish in lake and stream.

He laid it not, 'twas not his to use ax or spade,

But to pitch his tepee where he could best lay and dream.

In time the pioneers, our forefathers, came this way,

From the forest for himself and his kin a home to hew;

A large family of children he raised in his day,

Brave and strong to help him live in this country so new.

The woodman stood beneath the giant red beach tree

Whose broad and leafy head stood fifteen times above his own;

Said he, you give me no bread, I cannot live on thee

Though ten cords of wood you've grown.

Next he stood by the sweet and shady maple tree,

Whose head so green and bright rose high to greet the morning light;

Said he, I know the sugar you grow; is sweet and delicious for me to eat,

But I cannot wait, nature's gait for the sap to run.

And thus he said to the oak, elm, ash and many other trees,

Even if later on you could stand you'd give us thousands in cash;

I'll cut you down, you must go into the fiery seas,

For none of you, now, give us to eat as much even as a plate of hash.

So acres of fallen trees on earth's bosom lay at rest,

In the even tide, torch was applied, changing night to day;

The blaze was grand, terrific and sublime, but fearful at best.

Ashes only were left, of the remains, that the forest had passed away.

The red man, the Indian, in his strength and glory, where oh, where is he?

From the fish in the brook, the deer in the chase, he has gone to stay;

In forest or lake, on hill or dale, no more can we see him,

His nation is gone, weak and strong, he has passed away.

Many long, long years did our grandparents work and sing,

To help and bless their children in their day.

They heard the sweet voices in song and laughter ring,

They promised God with humble hearts, and silently passed away.

Our parents, when their work was done followed on.

The blessed book they taught us in their own sweet way,

That we might rightly live after they were gone above.

Soon they heard the call, come home, and meekly passed away.

A Few Incidents and Anecdotes of the Early Settlers

I will give you one that happened in the Hoyt family at Walton, and what happened in one part of the

country when it was new is equivalent to the other. We speak of this that happened in the Hoyt family because two of the sons came here when young men and spent their lives here and some of their sons did, the Rev. John B. Hoyt, pastor of the Second Congregational church of Coventry for thirty years, and Thaddeus Hoyt, Jr. Many were the privations, hardships, and sufferings that in the first year or two the pioneers were called to pass through. Provision was scarce, it could not be procured. If grain was obtained there was no mill to grind it. Our father was want to relate a deed that will seem incredible to this generation. He said they had lived on potato bread till they had become cloyed of it and their supply of this was nearly exhausted. He had a bushel of wheat, but there was no mill in all the region. One morning he slung it across his back and traveled with it nearly thirty miles to mill. I think it must have been near where the village of Hobart now stands, got it ground and the next day returned with it in the same manner. If, as Col. Chandler of Coventry remarked, the one whom we have just been writing about, when flour was very high, ten or twelve dollars a barrel, bread tasted much sweeter than when it was cheap,—the bread from this flour must have been sweet indeed. But not only was it hard to procure bread itself, meat was also scarce. They had none but wild game. Our father has related an incident which he always regarded as a special providential interposition. He had been over to Franklin and as he was returning, coming up the west hill, all at once he heard his little dog on ahead making a great ado, barking

at the highest pitch of his voice. Coming up to the spot he saw he was holding at bay an enormous elk standing on a high ledge of rocks. He hurried home for his gun and then back where he found the dog and elk in the same position he had left them. Taking aim the elk fell at the first fire. It was very fat and supplied the families in the settlement with savory meat for several months.

In the early settlement the inhabitants were much annoyed by wild beasts. Their sheep had to be carefully guarded by day and folded at night. I will relate a bear story which I have heard our father rehearse with no small zest. As he and uncle Silas Benedict were at work one afternoon towards evening, a bear came out of the west woods into the clearing, and descriing them slowly returned. They went to the house, loaded their guns and started in pursuit and discovered bruin standing on a bank beyond a small stream. They silently made their way to an old log some rods distant, resting their guns across the log they agreed at a given signal both to fire together. They fired and the bear fell. Uncle Silas immediately exclaimed, "I have put one ball through him, sure am I of that!" Father said they had better load again before they went up to him for they might meet with resistance. In reloading it was found Uncle Silas gun had only flashed in the pan, the charge was all in. He did not hear the last of killing the bear for many months.

Not only bears, but panthers, in some instances, made their appearance. As Simeon Hoyt, who lived where Wm. Hanford now does, went out just at dusk to take care of his

stock, he saw a huge panther in or near his yard. He had no weapon with him, but being a man of courage he plucked a stake from his ox sled and drove the beast away, which ascended a high stub or dry tree. He took care of his cattle then went to the house, got his gun and came back, but the animal was gone and it was too late to pursue him. The next morning the whole neighborhood turned out with horns, guns, and axes and tracked him in various directions, but the wily animal escaped.

I will relate one more incident which happened in Coventry about the year 1815, relating to hard times, showing how some of the settlers had to live and the hardships that they had endured. Harvey Judd, Sr., lived on the farm long known as the Frisbie farm in the south west part of the town. One winter his wife went away to take care of some one that was sick, while he and his little son, Harvey Judd, Jr., about nine or ten years old, lived there alone for three weeks. All they had to eat was potatoes, and all they had to season them with was to go to the empty pork barrel and get some salt. They had no cellar and the potatoes had to be buried in a heap out doors. The boy said every time he went to get some potatoes he would cry for fear the potatoes would freeze, for he thought if they did they would surely starve to death. Now reader, whoever you are, don't think that I am writing this for fiction for I am not. It is the truth. Harvey Judd, Jr., has been dead over forty years, but when living his word no man disputed, it was as good as the wheat, and the writer has heard this story a good many times; and

he said that there were several other families in the neighborhood in the same circumstances, all the meat any of them had was what wild game they could get.

Phillips Family

A history containing an account of the Phillips family, from the time of their emigrating to America 287 years ago to the present time, 1912.

Rev. George Phillips was born in Baymon, Norfolk, England. He and two of his brothers, Samuel and William, were adherents of Cromwell and at his death, on account of the persecution in England he with his brothers and whole congregation came over to Boston in company with Gov. Winthrop; arrived on the second of June 1630. Rev. George Phillips settled in Watertown, Mass., and died July 1, 1644.

2. Samuel Phillips, son of Rev. George Phillips was born in Boxford, England, in 1625, and died in Rowley, Mass., 1696. His children were: Sarah, Samuel, George, Elizabeth, Dorcas, Mary and John.

3. Rev. George Phillips, son of Samuel was born in 1664; settled in Brookhaven, L. I., in 1697; died 1739. His children were: George, who lived and died in Smithtown, and who was grandfather of George S. Phillips of that place. He was also grandfather of Major Phillips, who was father of Moses and George. One settled in Goshen, N. Y., the other at Morristown, N. J. They have many descendants. Some have become very wealthy. John, who lived and died in Boston, leaving only one daughter, who married a Dr. Spooner. His two sisters remained upon the Island. Elizabeth married a Roe, the other an Anthony.

4. William, who lived in Smith-town, L. I., and died Jan. 11, 1778. Sybel, his wife Oct. 31, 1767. They were grandparents to G. D. Phillips of Coventry. They had eleven children, viz: John, born Sept. 3, 1638, died in Milford, Conn., March 12, 1780, leaving four daughters, all since dead. William, born May 27, 1741, died in Brookhaven, L. I., March 27, 1799, the father of William Phillips, Esq., of Brookhaven. His other son, Josiah, and daughter, Ursula, died young. Zebulon, born April 14, 1746, died in Peekskill, N. Y., Jan. 13, 1815; left only one child and she married Harry Rundell.

5. James, born March 13, 1751, died in Coventry, N. Y., Jan. 20, 1841. He was the father of G. D. Phillips of this place.

Ebenezer, born July 15, 1753, died in Norwalk, Conn., Aug. 5, 1829; married Polly Benedict; had four daughters: Esther, married a Crosby, Sally, married W. P. Stewart; Elizabeth, never married, and died in 1862. Sarah, born Oct. 24, 1756, married a Tillotson and died in North Salem, N. Y., Feb. 12, 1827.

Philetus, born Oct. 24, 1759, married Esther Close. He died in Greenville, N. Y., May 19, 1818. They had eight children: Ebenezer, a minister, settled in East Hampton, L. I. Miles died in New York. Nancy married William Phillips of Brookhaven, and died there. Daniel B., was a bachelor, and lived in New York. John lived in Ohio. Mary died a maiden in New York. Philetus lived in New York. Esther married a Knowles, and died in Greenville, N. Y., in 1865. Elizabeth, born Nov. 1762, died in Brookhaven, Feb. 4, 1844. She never married. Richard and two Marys died young. It will be seen

the ancestors of G. D. Phillips in a direct line on his fathers side stands thus:

1.—Rev. George Phillips, who emigrated from England in 1630.

2.—Samuel Phillips.

3.—Rev. George Phillips.

4.—William Phillips, a grandfather of G. D. Phillips.

5.—James Phillips, father of G. D. Phillips.

We will now give a more particular account of G. D. Phillips father's family and his own.

James Phillips, father of G. D. Phillips, was born March 13, 1751, and died in Coventry, N. Y., Jan. 20, 1841. His wife, Mercy Close Phillips, died Sept. 23, 1783. By her he had two children, Solomon Close died a bachelor in Mississippi, 1830, and Betsey, who married a Jennings and she died in 1867. She had six children: Eliza, Fannie, both of whom are dead; Solomon, Lucinda, Huldah and James. His second wife, Betsey Drake, he married in 1785. She was the mother of G. D. Phillips; born Sept. 10, 1761; died Sept. 20, 1847. They had six children. (1) Fannie, born Jan. 25, 1786, died Oct. 23, 1826. She married Isaac Wallace and they had five children: James Phillips, Thomas, John and two Elizabeths, the first of whom died in infancy. John died a bachelor; the others were married. (2) John, born May 26, 1788, died a bachelor, June 31, 1823. (3) Gilbert Drake, born June 3, 1791, married Betsey Miller, Oct. 2, 1817. She was born March 16, 1797. They had five children: Daniel Miller, died an infant; Edgar, born July 12, 1818, married Hannah M. Hoyt, June 30, 1841. She was born March 22, 1821. They had four children: James, Charles E.,

Edward G. and Wallace H. James M. born Nov. 22, 1823, married Lydia M. Chandler, Aug. 25, 1847; born Aug. 25, 1826; one adopted daughter Louisa M., Phoebe Elizabeth, born Jan. 24, 1829; married A. J. Hoyt, June 19, 1850. He was born May 2, 1825. Had two daughters, Alice Louisa and Hattie Amelia. Maria Louisa, born Aug. 27, 1836, married F. Leroy Martin, Oct. 27, 1857; has one daughter, Mary Louisa. (4) Minerva, born Sept. 15, 1793, married Thomas Caldwell; had no children. Adopted two daughters, Louisa and Maria. (5) George Washington, born March 9, 1796, died May 30, 1841, married Maria Tremper. They had seven children: Catherine, Fanny, Minerva, Elizabeth, Margaret, George and George 2d. (6) Eliza Ann, born Sept. 5, 1805. She married Oct. 8, 1843, Rev. J. B. Hoyt, for thirty years pastor of the Second Congregational church in Coventry. They had one child, James Phillips, who for many years has been a minister of the gospel. G. D. Phillips died Dec. 18, 1872, aged 72 years; his wife, April 25, 1885, aged 88 years. E. A. Phillips died Jan. 16, 1881, aged 62 years. His wife, March 2, 1885, aged 64 years. James M. Phillips died Dec. 18, 1900, aged 77 years. His wife died April 23, 1874, aged 48 years. A. J. Hoyt, died Jan. 11, 1906, aged 81 years. His wife died Jan. 5, 1903, aged 74 years. E. A. Phillips, if not born in Coventry, spent his boyhood days here, his education was attained in the common schools and at an early age worked in his father's store. When a young man he entered into partnership with his father in the mercantile business, which he followed until his death.

He was very prominent in town affairs, having been supervisor and held other offices. He was very active in church matters, having been superintendent in the Congregational church more times than any other man in the society. He was a smart, shrewd business man, and what he undertook prospered. He was one of the most capable and leading men in the society. His death was a great loss to the church and neighborhood, and to the community at large. History does not tell when G. D. Phillips came to Coventry. Some of their children were born here and those that were born here and those that were not must have been quite young when they came here.

James M. Phillips was brought up here the same as the rest and probably was educated in the district schools. When a young man he was in the mercantile business with his father and brother; later he engaged in farming and droving business with his father-in-law, Colonel Chandler, and Augustus Martin, which he followed for a good many years. He was a very strong prop in the Congregational church, both spiritual and financial. He was a very prominent man in the town affairs. In politics he was a Democrat, and lived in a town that was fifty or more majority Republican, yet he was supervisor more times than any other man in the town. In 1859, he accepted a nomination for Member of Assembly for the southern district of Chenango county, which at that time was fifteen hundred Republican majority. He was defeated by Joseph Bush of Bainbridge by about three hundred majority. At that time there was great excitement over the Albany

and Susquehanna railroad, and Bush promised to work for it if elected, and by the means, he carried Bainbridge solid with the exception of 16 votes. Had the Democrats stood by him in Bainbridge as they did in the other towns he would have been elected. Again in 1860 he run for the same office and was defeated by Samuel E. Lewis of Preston by about the same majority. He was a man of good judgment, always stood up for what he thought was right; his counsel was often sought and always cheerfully given. The poor came to him in trouble and he always gave them the helping hand and cheerful word, and at his death he left an aching void, not only in his family and relatives, but in the community at large, which never has, nor never can be filled. I forgot to say that he married for his second wife Miss Francis Hitt, who died a short time ago; date of marriage and age unknown to me.

Amasa J. Hoyt came from Greene to Coventry near the year 1850; he entered into the holy bonds of wedlock with Miss Phoebe Elizabeth Phillips, June 19, 1850. In 1851, he entered into partnership with G. D. Phillips & Sons in the mercantile business which he followed as long as he was able. He was not very active in politics, although a Republican, he did not aspire to office. He was a good worker in the church, both spiritual and financial.

Thorp

John P. Thorp was a shoemaker by trade, taught school some; was Justice of the Peace for several years and was elected poor master, and I think some other office.

Reader, whoever thou art, if you see mistakes in the individual lives

of those that I am writing, please excuse me, for I cannot find in any history one single scrap of writing concerning their individual history. All I have to go by is my own memory of fifty-nine years, since I first became acquainted with the people of this town and what I can remember hearing old people say. So it would not be strange if a man over seventy years of age, writing from his own memory of fifty-nine years ago should make some mistakes. One thing I am sorry for and that is I can't find any individual history of the lives of the illustrious men of this town, for we have had a good many of them; but what can't be cured must be endured, as the school marm used to tell us when she applied the birch. Nevertheless, I will give you a short sketch of as many as I can remember.

Hiram Chase lived where Mrs. Jennie Fletcher now lives. He was a butcher and stone mason by trade. Reader remember those that I am writing about now are way back in the early fifties. He sold out to John Grant, who was a cooper by trade, who had an extensive business for several years. He sold out and went to Freetown, Cortland county, N. Y. Mr. Chase bought near where Burton Jones now lives. He stayed there several years and then went to Masonville.

The Widow Stiles lived in the next house, had quite a family of children. Joseph Estabrook lived where George Endter now lives and worked at blacksmithing in the old wooden shop that stood where the stone shop now stands, he worked there several years, and died a year or two ago in Oxford.

The next house on the corner William Church owned and lived in

it. He had a large family of boys and girls, several of them grown up and some of them married at that time. He run a large store where Grange hall now is. He was also a drover. The next house east was where Frederic Martin lived. He was born and brought up in this town, on the farm known as the T. B. Foot farm, where the factory was, now owned by the Lindseys. He was a drover and somewhat prominent in town affairs. The next east is where Romeo Warren lived. He was a drover and farmer. He had two sons and two daughters; Mary taught select school.

Then comes what we call the temperance house, built by G. D. Phillips for a Temperance Hotel and run as such for a good many years. It was run by Charles Lewis when I first knew it. He was a harness maker and worked at his trade for a good many years and finally moved to Connecticut. John Treadway run it for a while, then George Cornish, and one Seeley. The next house, I think, was owned by G. D. Phillips and sons. It was rented most of the time. The house next was owned and occupied by J. W. D. Fletcher Moon. He was a blacksmith by trade and worked at it when I first remember this place and for a good many years afterward. He had quite a family of children, and I don't know whether any of them are living or not. One of the daughters married Edgar A. Pearsall, a former Assemblyman, who now lives in Oxford. Her death occurred a few years ago in Oxford and her body was brought here for burial. I don't remember who owned the next house, but it was occupied by a man named Dole, an oldish man, a day laborer and also sexton for a

good many years in the Congregational church. If my memory serves me right he was father-in-law to Fletcher Moon. Then came the house owned and occupied by John Keyes. He had two sons and two daughters, and was a day laborer. One of his daughters, Jane, married Albert Williams, who was a shoe-maker living here for a few years. She is now dead and he now lives in Binghamton. Emeline married Sylvester Packard. He is dead and she is still living. Andrew, I don't know who he married for his first wife, but he married Emily Jones for his second and lives in Oxford. James, I think lives in Norwich.

I don't remember who owned the next house, but it was occupied by a widow Andrews, she had one son and one daughter grown up, the daughter married Chauncey Manning. The last two houses named have been joined together; well, not in holy wedlock, for I don't think the minister did it, but the carpenter joined them in some kind of a lock. They are now owned and occupied by Oral Dalton. That was the last house on that side of the road.

John P. Thorp lived where John Mangold now lives. He had one daughter, Flora, who married Dr. Jesse Bartoo of Greene.

A little north of the churches where Mr. Palmer now lives, the widow Phillips lived. Her husband was brother to G. D. Phillips. She had five daughters and two sons; one daughter married Dr. Wm. H. Beardsley of Coventry, and one married Reuben Rolf of Coventry, a farmer. I don't know about the rest of the family.

The next house north where Virgil Andrews now lives, was George

Keyes'. He married a widow Griswold, who had two sons and one daughter, Delos and Lewis, and if I remember the daughter's name was Louisa.

Just across the road is where Rev. J. B. Hoyt lived, mention of him has been made before. How many children he had by his first wife I don't know, but there was one daughter who married Clement Blakesley, a farmer, and lived a little west of the village. There were some boys. By his second wife he had one son, James, who was a minister. Going down the corner of East Main street and you come to where Dr. Beardsley lived. He had four sons, all married and all living; only one, C. G., lives in town.

The next house west is where Luman Jones lived. He was a shoemaker by trade and had a large family of children. Only one, Burton, now living in town. The next is where Henry Parker lived, and he was a wagon maker by trade. He had one daughter.

The next is where Luther Hazen lived, who was a wagon maker. He had two sons. He built the shop which is now owned by George Hamilton and run a cabinet and undertaking business.

Then comes the Orchard Bristol place. He was a wagon maker. He had one son by his first wife, who was a Benedict. The son, James E., became a reformed Methodist minister. In 1857, Mr. Bristol sold his place to Zenas Hutchinson. He and his wife and daughter lived here until the death of both parents; after which the daughter married Chauncey S. Williams, and lived here until their deaths. She died Dec. 10, 1901, and he Jan. 31, 1912.

The next is where E. A. Phillips

lived, who was one of the merchants of this place, which business he followed as long as he lived. He had four sons, and not one of the name is now living in Coventry. In 1853 he built the house that Frank Kelley now lives in and lived there until his death, Jan. 16, 1881.

Turn and go north up Gothic street and the first house is where Miss Polly Manning and Mrs. Almira Moore lived. They were milliners and had a shop there. The next house is where Mrs. Hoyt now lives, was not built then.

The next one is where Lemuel Lewis lived. He was a carpenter and joiner by trade and built several houses in the village. He had three daughters and one son, one daughter died young. Laura never married. Elizabeth married Stephen Palmer of Chenango Forks.

The next house, the Congregational parsonage, was not built at that time. Across the road is where A. J. Hoyt lived. I think he built that house in 1853. He was one of the firm of Phillips & Hoyt in the mercantile business, which he followed as long as he was able to work. He had two daughters: Hattie, married William Parker; Alice married Stephen Berry.

Go on down to the corner of East Main street and you will find where Daniel Beecher lived. He built the house and lived there several years and was a carpenter by trade. In after years he farmed it. He had two daughters: Carrie, married Burton Jones of Coventry; Emily married Herbert Tower.

The next house west is where Erastus Greene lived. He was a shoemaker and had two daughters. Emily married Charles Johnson; Mary, a Gardner.

The next is where G. D. Phillips lived. It is not needful to say anything more of him here, for you have got a sketch of his life in this book.

Next comes the store of Phillips & Hoyt, occupied by them in 1853, now occupied by Kelley & Son.

Turn the corner to the right and you come to what we now call the grocery store. In 1853 it was owned and occupied by John Foote, a shoemaker and tanner. The lower part was occupied by him as a shoe shop and the upper part by John Treadway for a harness shop and by Hector Porter as a pocket book factory.

The next house, where A. P. Stanton, now lives, is where Hector Porter lived. He had one son and one daughter. Sarah married Harvey Wilkins. William married Mary Jane Whittington. The next house was where John Treadway lived, now owned by Mrs. Catherine Lewis. He had two sons and two daughters and was a harness maker by trade.

The next house is where Col. Rufus Chandler lived and the next is where James Phillips lived. You have a history of their lives in previous chapters.

The next house is where John Foote lived, now used as the M. E. parsonage. As has already been said he was a shoemaker and tanner by trade. He had two daughters: Lydia Ann, who married Henry Milton Ketchum and removed to Minnesota; and Jane Amanda. Mr. Foote afterwards sold and went to St. Paul, Minnesota.

Gideon Minor lived next. I think he taught school in his younger days. He had one daughter, Jennie, who married James Barnes of Binghamton, N. Y.

Coming back down North Maple street there used to stand a house a little north of the hotel, an old couple by the name of Barnum lived. The house has been gone for a good many years.

Next on the list is the hotel kept by Luman Miles. He run a hotel and farmed it there for a good many years. He had two sons and two daughters: Leroy, married Hattie Durham, kept hotel at East Corners; Frank, married Mary Bump; Helen, married Charles Johnson, and Dilla married George Race.

Going down West Main street and the first house was where Daniel Hays lived. He was a tanner by trade and worked at his trade. There was a tannery near his house. He was a strong supporter in the M. E. church. He had two sons and two daughters: Liza, married Edward Smith; Anna, never married; Edgar and Hamilton.

The next house is where Zenas Hutchinson lived, who had two daughters: Sophia, who died at 17 years of age, and Callista, who married Chauncey Williams. Hutchinson soon after sold to Romeo Warren, who in a few years sold to Dr. Harvey Beardsley. It was afterwards owned by John Kales and then by his son James, then by Mrs. James Kales, and now by Charles Hoyt.

Coming back and on the other side of the road in what is known as the Kingsley house was where William Porter lived. Afterwards C. K. Pierce lived there, who had two sons and two daughters. He was the father of Frank Pierce, so well known in Coventry. C. K. Pierce was a carpenter by trade. Helen married George Barnett; Lovie married Perry Van Dusen; Frank

married Ida Wylie. The creamery and the house where Ralph Hinsdale now lives was not built then.

Then opposite the hotel was where Calvin Blakesley lived, who was Justice of the Peace for twenty-four years. He afterwards sold and bought the farm west of the village now owned by Hubert Wade. He had two sons: Clement, who married Emeline Hoyt, and Calvin, who went to Canada to live.

I left out one house on Maple street, the house now owned by Charles Fisk. It was owned by Augustus Rice, a cooper by trade.

The house on East Main street known as the John Southworth house was not built then.

Going south from the Four Corners you came to the M. E. church, which was built in 1853, and the old school which stood just beyond was built the same year. That has been removed and a new one built some twelve years ago.

The next two houses was not there in 1853. In getting the Packard family I missed one, Anna Packard, who married Ira Benedict.

Lemuel Lewis, one of a family of eleven, was born Dec. 17, 1804, in Wolcott, New Haven county, Conn., and remained there until fifteen years old; then he moved to Plainville, Hartford county, named the town and built the first house in Plainville. He moved from there to Coventry Nov. 12, 1835. He had three daughters and one son. Mr. Lewis built the M. E. church in Coventry from the foundation, done the inside work of both the other churches and raised two bells in the steeple of the Second Congregational church. On his 92d birthday they made him a surprise at his son's, Charles Lewis, in Coventry, Dec. 17.

I will tell all that was wrote about it but will say there were fifty-eight present. I will give the article written and read by Mrs. S. B. Wilder:

Tribute to Mr. Lemuel Lewis on His 92d Birthday

Ninety-two years ago today in the town of Wolcott, New Haven county, Conn., our esteemed friend first opened his baby eyes with wonder on this strange world, and since that time life's journey has been long to the weary one whom today we greet. Many changes have come to him all along life's way. He has seen both shadow and sunshine, and sometimes it has seemed as if the clouds would never roll by, but such is not life; the clouds will roll away from every burdened heart and we trust today our aged friend is looking towards the setting sun with joy and trusting in a life of unfading sunlight beyond.

Just now, we pause, along life's way,
And count the rapid flight of
time;
Ah! Olden memories come today,
And long lost strains of auld lang
syne.

Ninety-two years with hopes and
care,
With childhood's joys and youth's
bright dream;
And manhood's tolling strong and
brave,
While rowing far out on life's
stream.

Oftimes the journey has been rough,
And burdens seemed too great to
bear;
Yet Jesus telleth all the way
Of rest unbroken "over there."

Ninety-two years, with changing
scenes,
With home and friends, with
cheering words,
With joy and love, with grief and
tears.

With music and with broken
chords.
There will be briers where roses
bloom,
There will be budding hopes
crushed down;
There will be harps with broken
strings
For every cross there is a crown.
There in that land we'll never grow
old,
The feet shall never tire with
care;
No silver thread among the gold;
No night, nor tearful watching
there.
Yet when thy feet shall touch the
stream,
Thou shalt not sink beneath the
tide,
For faith in Jesus then shall bear
Thee safely to the other side.
Then God be with you till we meet,
Where toil and tears are e'er un-
known,
Across the river, bye and bye,
We'll dwell forever safe at home.
As has already been said I can
get but little personal history of in-
dividuals in this place, but I can get
a little from obituaries of some of
the town's former inhabitants,

Sampson

Emogene Louisa Martin, daugh-
ter of Frederic Martin, was born in
Coventry, Aug. 20, 1840. Her girl-
hood and younger life was spent
here. She was educated in the
schools of this place. In 1861, she
was united in the holy bonds of
wedlock with I. S. Sampson, who
with three daughters survive her,
having buried her only son in 1878.
The large portion of her life was
spent in Cincinnati, N. Y., where
she was a member of the M. E.
church. In her life she was unself-
ishly devoted to her family and the
church. Such were the natural
sympathy of her heart that she was
often found at the bedside of the

sick. As a mother she was kind
and affectionate. She was over
twenty years the organist of the
church where she toiled unceasingly
to help to make the services of God's
house of the greatest possible help.
The last few years of her life was
spent in DeRuyter. Her failing
health prevented her from active
church work as she had formerly
done, but in her own life she was
the same sweet spirited woman as in
her more active years. September
11, 1896, she passed from this life
to the other.

Wylie

Judge Hawley J. Wylie was born
in Coventry, Chenango county, N.
Y., Dec. 3, 1833. When he was 14
years old his father died and at the
age of 17 he began teaching school,
attending Norwich Academy during
the summers. He left the academy
in 1855 and for two years was en-
gaged in mining for gold in Cali-
fornia. In March, 1859, he came to
Columbus, Ohio, and entered the
law office of Messrs. Greiger & An-
drews. On April 1, 1861, he was
admitted to the bar by the Supreme
Court, Judge Robert B. Warden,
and Noah H. Swayne, late Associ-
ate Justice of the United States
Court, being the examining com-
mittee. Judge Wylie had a military
record which began in July, 1862,
when he recruited Company H, of
the Ninety-fifth O. V. I., made up
of Columbus men mostly. On July
18, 1862, the company was muster-
ed at Camp Chase, Judge Wylie be-
ing commissioned captain. The re-
giment was sent to Kentucky, where
at the battle of Richmond on Aug.
31, it was nearly riddled with
wounded, captured and killed. On
December 5, his regiment not hav-
ing been exchanged, Captain Wylie

resigned and began the practice of law in the city of Columbus with the late Judge W. R. Rankin. He was elected city solicitor in 1863, and re-elected in 1865, serving four years. At the October election in 1881 he was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the counties of Madison, Pickaway and Franklin. He took his seat on February 9, 1882. His term expired on February 9, 1887. During his term he presided over the criminal branch of the courts and helped out on the chancellor side. After his retirement from the bench he resumed the practice of law. Judge Wylie was a brother of the late John Wylie of Coventry and an uncle of Mrs. W. A. Baldwin of this village. He visited here in 1911 and will be remembered by many of the older inhabitants.—Columbus, Ohio Dispatch.

Parker

James S. Parker was born in the town of Coventry and lived here nearly all his life. He was West about five years and in his old age lived with his son in New Jersey. In his younger days he taught school and was a farmer, and afterwards run a grocery store. He was quite prominent in town affairs, holding office of Justice of the Peace for several years and I think another office. For many years he was a leading member of the Second Congregational church of Coventry.

Watrous

Jerome Watrous was born in Coventry in 1849 and spent all his life in this town. He was much respected in the community where he lived and in the whole town and he will be greatly missed. He was a kind

husband and a loving father, and had a good word for every one. He leaves to mourn his departure a wife, one daughter, Mrs. Pearl Badger, and one sister, Mrs. Eugenie Parker. He was a farmer and accumulated considerable wealth. He had been in poor health for some time.

Wylie

Hubbard H. Wylie was born in Coventry Dec. 6, 1828, on what is now known as the George Wylie farm, and died at his home in this town Jan. 16, 1910, aged 81 years. With the exception of one year spent in the West, when a young man, he lived all his life in town and was well known. In 1857 he was married to Miss Sabrah Brown of Harpursville, and soon after they bought the farm where they lived and where he died. Mr. Wylie being a carpenter, built the house where they have since passed fifty-two years of life together. One son, Jesse, was born and lived to be 19 years old, when he died in 1886. Mr. Wylie was always a kind and helpful neighbor and true friend, with always a pleasant word for every one. He had filled many offices of trust and honor in town affairs, and could always be counted on as doing what was the right thing. He will be greatly missed by a large circle of relatives and friends.

Hunt

Nelson G. Hunt, son of Benjamin and Rebecca Hunt, was born in Towanda, Pa., in 1824. He was married to Emeline Hunt March 11, 1847, and five children were born to them, four of whom, Frank R. Hunt, of Newark, N. Y., D. N. Hunt, Mrs.

E. H. Wheeler and Mrs B. W. Parsons, survive him. Mr. Hunt became a resident of this town in 1856, and has been an exemplary member of the First Congregational church for 43 years and was always in attendance when able to be present. He was a deacon in the church for a number of years and was a man of excellent character. Before disease came upon him he was a man of more than ordinary activity and intelligence, possessing a bright and cultivated mind. In early life he was a teacher for seven years, then was town superintendent of schools. He was always actively identified with the affairs of the town, having held the office of Justice of the Peace for 28 consecutive years. Mr. Hunt was a man of influence, respected and loved by a large circle of friends; a kind and loving husband and father, a true and upright man. He had been in poor health for the past ten years, and has been most tenderly cared for by his wife and children. He passed quietly to a higher life of immortality on Friday morning July 21, 1899, at the advanced age of 75 years.

Kales

James Kales, son of John Kales, was born in Coventry and brought up in this place. His early education was received at the common district school in this village. He married Nellie, daughter of Ezra Foote. The deceased has always been thoroughly identified with the interests of the community and prominent in town affairs, holding the office of supervisor, if I am informed right, for one or two terms, and in his death we lose a most substantial and public spirited citi-

zen. He was ever ready to help the unfortunate, and his life will be held in affectionate remembrance by many who feel that in his death, they have received irreparable loss. When a kind and loving husband and brother dies the busy world takes little note, but those who knew his worth, and we who mourn, desire to express our thoughts in words of love. We cannot look beyond the stars. We cannot find in this cold clay the consolation that we seek, but the mystery that surrounds this bier must be the perfect working of the law, though hard to bear, we must submit, and to thy tender mercy, give back to thee, this soul. He passed away April 27, aged 49 years. But this we know, and be it known, a gentle spirit has been called. There are surviving him a widow and two sisters, Mrs. John Manderville of Brocton, Mass., and Mrs. Charles Friot of Bainbridge, besides a host of friends. The services at the grave were conducted in the rites of the Masonic order. In this quiet burial place and where the sky is nearly always blue and the air is pure and sweet, we tenderly placed him among the flowers and with heavy hearts and faltering steps, withdraw to await the promises of God.

Mrs. Wood

Lucy J., daughter of Truman and Jane Southworth of Coventry, was born Aug. 8. 1840. Her youthful days were spent there; her education was acquired at the district school. At the age of 26 on Sept. 26, she was united in hymeneal bonds with Wallace W. Wood of Cincinnati, N Y., and since that date has resided in that place. Of this union one son was born, Frank

S. Wood of Taylor. Mrs. Wood, having lived in Coventry till she was 26 years of age, she left many warm friends here, and has always been esteemed for her many admirable qualities, her spirit of friendship and interest in the welfare of others, and her many kindly acts which will not be forgotten. Her death occurred April 11, 1912. She leaves a husband and son to mourn the loss of devoted wife and kind and indulgent mother.

Thorp

John P. Thorp, an old and respected citizen, a life long resident of this town, and one that was much esteemed by all that knew him. He was the father of Mrs. J. E. Bartoo of Greene, and passed away at the home of his nephew in Rochester, April 18, 1903. His remains were brought to Coventry and buried by the side of his wife, who had passed on a few years before.

Southworth

John Southworth, son of Truman Sr., and Jane Southworth, was born in Coventry and spent his life here. He farmed it till he got to be an old man and then moved into the village. He had one of those strong, iron constitutions, and but few men wanted to, nor could do the work that he done. A singular coincidence happened at his death which occurred in 1911, he dying all alone in the same house where his wife died alone, a few years previous. Truman Southworth, brother of John, a highly respected citizen, was born in 1843 and lived in this town all his life, with the exception of a year or two spent in Binghamton. He was a farmer and somewhat

prominent in town affairs, holding the office of highway commissioner for several years. In early life he married a Miss Elliott and lived for a good many years in the north east part of the town. They had two sons, Guy and Ray. The last three years of their lives they spent in the village of Coventry. Mrs. Southworth received a shock in March, 1910, and another in November of the same year. She was a great sufferer. She died on Saturday, Dec. 31, 1910. Saturday evening the spirit of little Ernest, only son of Ray and Lena Southworth, winged its flight to his heavenly home, after an illness of little more than a week of spinal trouble. Mrs. Southworth was 70 years of age, she was a kind and loving mother and was tenderly cared for by her husband and two sons. She was a member of the First Congregational church of Coventry. Truman A. Southworth, the father, died Jan. 5, 1911, only a few days after the others, from Bright's disease. He had been in poor health for some time. He left two sons. Surely this family has seen double and triple affliction within a few days.

Allis

Spencer F. Allis was born in the town of Coventry, N. Y., in 1836. His early education was acquired in the district school; his boyhood days were spent there. He married a Miss Kales, daughter of William Kales. They had three sons and one daughter. He was a farmer, and also very prominent in town affairs. He was one of Coventry's most trustworthy men, having held the office of supervisor for several terms

with marked ability. He was a shrewd business man and a whole-souled citizen. Mr. Allis moved from Coventry to Greene several years ago for the purpose of giving his children better school advantages than they could get at home and to escape the hardship of farm life. He died in 1888, aged 52 years, right in the prime of life by an overdose of laudanum taken accidentally by his own hand. His sad and untimely ending brought sorrow to his family and to a large circle of friends, who had known him from his boyhood days.

Jones

Chester L. Jones was born in Coventry, July 23, 1832, and was married to Sarah E. Rogers, Sept. 23, 1856. She died July 2, 1891, in Philadelphia. Their children were one daughter and four sons. After the death of his first wife he married Mrs. Esther Mumford, Nov. 17, 1892. She has given him most assiduous and tender care in his illness and filled a difficult and trying place in his home most admirably. Mr. Jones was very prominent in town affairs, holding the office of highway commissioner for two terms, assessor one term, and was Justice of the Peace for several years. He had been trustee of the Presbyterian church of Nineveh and was serving his second term as elder when he died. He united with the church in Coventry when he was 20 years old. For 45 years he had been a member of the Presbyterian church at Nineveh. In the little vale with its running brook, known as Church Hollow, he came years ago with only a log house to receive him. Here he erected buildings comfortable and convenient,

building the beautiful winding road along the stream to the main thoroughfare. Here the smiling acres answered to his toil with generous harvest; two spears of grass grew where one had grown before. How much of toil, sacrifice and endeavor is between these lines. Here stalwart sons and daughters grew up to mature life. In all his efforts he was seconded by his worthy helpmate who was a helpmate indeed. With age we look for weakness, infirmity, failing power, but our brother had few marks of decay; we did not think of him as old, so youthful was he, until bereavement touched him, and the wife of his youth departed. He was a young man, then we saw the sickle of the years begin to reap their harvest. He was a man of energy and thrift, the life of the husbandman demands a strenuous life, he also found time to work at carpenter work, and thus interest could be met and the debt slowly paid. All farmers know what a life this demands. He was a good neighbor. That word in cities and large towns has lost its sweet significance, we have what we pay for, but money will not buy some things, and that which money will not command comes to rural communities in the form of neighborly offices, in bereavement, in disaster, in sudden press of work. Long will the dale where our brother lived so long remember his cordial word, his hearty hand grasp, his jovial spirit.

Mandeville

Ashal Mandeville was born in Coventry in 18—, and was the son of Malancton Mandeville, who came in here when it was all woods and cleared his farm. Ashal's early education was gained in the district

school and in 1868 he married Rachael M. Kales of Coventry, who still survives him. Mr. Mandeville retained the ownership of the homestead farm in Coventry, and of which he became possessor; he cultivated this farm in a manner which yielded profitable results, and he was considered a wealthy farmer. About 19 years ago he retired and moved to the village of Bainbridge. His retired life has been quiet and unassuming. He loved his home and devoted much time to reading. He was a regular attendant at the Presbyterian church. Mrs. Louisa M. Curtis of Orange, N. J., is the only child surviving. Mr. Mandeville left two brothers, one in Minnesota and the other at Brocton, Mass., and a sister in New Haven, Conn. There are two sisters of the wife, one Mrs. S. F. Allis of Seattle, Washington, and the other Mrs. Sarah J. Cahoon of Elyria, Ohio.

Roe

Alanson Roe, a man over 90 years of age, who came to his tragic death by the house burning up, was born April 18, 1808, in Dutchess county, N. Y. He was married Oct. 16, 1834, to Miss Louisa Smith of Coventry, a most estimable lady by whom he had seven children, four of whom survive him. Mrs. Roe died March 20, 1888. They celebrated their golden wedding in 1884. Mr. Roe was a genial, kindly man and had been a consistent member of the Second Congregational church of Coventry for upwards of 40 years. He was a man that took keen interest in the affairs of church and State up to the time of his death. He had a remarkable memory and had committed to memory a great many chapters of the Bible,

and took great delight in conversing about spiritual things. He knew in whom he believed and said but a short time before he met his sad death, that he was only waiting the master's call. He rests from his labors, and his works do follow him.

Mrs. John P. Thorp

The many friends of Mrs. John P. Thorp were deeply grieved to hear of her death, which occurred at her home at Coventry, March 11, 1911, aged 74 years. Mrs. Thorp's maiden name was Diana Waters. She was born in Coventry in October, 1827, being the daughter of Russell and Roxey Waters, and the third child in a family of five. In the fall of 1848 she was united in marriage to John P. Thorp and the young couple resided in Oxford for four years. In 1852 they returned to Coventry and took their residence at the pleasant place which has since been their home for over 50 years, and where, one daughter, Florence, was born to them. Mrs. Thorp was a member of the Second Congregational church of Coventry and her strong Christian spirit, affectionate disposition, and sympathetic nature that were hers, have so endeared her to those she came in contact with, that her death brings an acute sense of personal loss and grief to all who knew her. She had been in failing health for several years, but always met her friends with a cheerful smile, and at the last, the end came suddenly, and she slipped away from this mortal life into that life which is immortal. She was survived by her aged husband, but he is now gone, and one daughter, Mrs. Jesse Bartoo of Greene, who have the sympathy of all in their loss. She was laid to rest in the cemetery at Coventry.

Landers

Mrs. Dotha Landers, the oldest person then living in the town of Coventry, died at her home in Wilkins Settlement, on Jan. 16, 1892, at the advanced age of 98 years and some months. The funeral was attended at her late residence, the home of Melvin Lyon, on the 18th. Mrs. Landers was one of those droll characters seldom found, but when once seen always remembered. She was a good, well meaning woman, but her hobbies were numerous and the earnestness with which she denounced all secret societies and harmless amusements gave rise to much good natured hilarity among the young people, and Aunt Dotha, as she was familiarly called, was well known far and near. She preserved her physical strength to a remarkable degree and was able to walk about and to visit her neighbors until the very last years of her life. She told many stories of the far past, which were received with pleasure. One of her sisters was a district school teacher of considerable note in the good old time, and Mrs. Landers frequently mentioned with considerable pride the fact that Henry Ward Beecher, when a boy used to attend her sister's school. Thus, one by one, the very few links left that connect us with the past century are passing away.

Warren

Elisha M. Warren was born in the town of Coventry. His early education was gained in the common schools. He was married Sept. 18, 1879. His home was in Coventry until he became middle aged, when he removed to Bainbridge and has been associated with Jesse Anderson, under the firm name of Warren

& Anderson in the boot and shoe business for about 30 years. He died on the road of heart failure, between Sidney and Bainbridge while coming home from camp meeting. He was 76 years old and was buried at Coventryville.

Smith

Russell M. Smith was a son of Clark Smith and was born in Coventry Jan. 26, 1813. His whole life was spent in his native town and within a short distance of the place of his birth. In early life he united with the Second Congregational church of Coventry and was for a number of years a deacon in that church. Later he removed to Church Hollow and became a member and a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church in Nineveh. He afterwards returned to his farm where he died, and connected himself with the First Congregational church of Coventry, of which he was a faithful and esteemed member at the time of his death. July 4, 1838, he was married to Miss Annette Beecher, a sister of Dr. H. H. Beecher, late of Norwich, who preceded him to the grave March 21, 1877. Three children were born to them, but one of whom is living, C. Eugene Smith, who resides about one mile from the old homestead in Coventry. Mr. Smith was truly one of nature's noblemen. He was naturally of a retiring and unassuming disposition but was never backward nor slow to do, when service was needed and his fellow men could be helped. He carried his Christian principles into his daily life. His Christian faith moved and controlled him in all his actions and was a constant strength and joy to him in all of his experiences. He won and held the

highest respect and esteem of all who knew him. His life went out peacefully in the full assurance of the Christian hope. In his death his native town has lost one of its oldest and best citizens, and the church of which he was a member, and the circle of friends and relatives, will long feel their loss.

Andrews

Death has again invaded our quiet community and taken two of our most highly esteemed citizens. On Thursday of last week the people about here were pained to learn of the death of Henry Andrews, which occurred early that morning at his late residence. Mr. Andrews was a soldier and a member of the 114th Regt. during the Civil war, not entering the service for the sake of a bounty, as he got none, but like many others he left family, home and friends to defend his country out of pure patriotism. He was dangerously wounded at the battle of Cedar Creek, from which he so far recovered as to enjoy comfortable health for many years after the war, but in these later years the old wound ulcerated and he suffered much for a long time until at last death came to his relief. He was the soul of honor in all the business relations of life. In his youth he became converted and united with the Baptist church of Coventry, of which he was deacon at the time of his death. He leaves a wife but no children. The funeral took place at the North Afton church on Friday afternoon, Oct. 10. His pastor, Rev. George Boler, preached the sermon and his comrades of the G. A. R. bore his remains to the cemetery near by where they were committed to the dust.

White

A few hours later the community was again saddened to hear that Vincent White had passed away. He had been in poor health for over a year and his death was not altogether a surprise. He had been a resident of this place for many years and carried on the business of harness maker with honesty and ability, and was held in high estimation by the community. Mr. White was a consistent member of the Second Congregational church of Coventry. He leaves a wife and four grown up sons to mourn him.

Seymour

Josiah Seymour, born and brought up, married and lived here till middle age, was one of Coventry's prominent men. Always quiet and inoffensive, with a good word for all. He left farming and moved to Bainbridge, working in the foundry for several years. He was the inventor of the Seymour plow that was so popular several years ago. He died at Port Jervis. His remains were brought back here for interment.

Converse

Mrs. Alvin Converse, a former resident of this town, but late of Bainbridge, was buried at Coventry Jan. 12.

Beecher

Dr. Harris H. Beecher was born in Coventry, Nov. 21, 1820. His father, Parson Beecher, was one of the early pioneers of the county, having removed from Salem, Conn., now Naugatuck, to Coventry in 1806. In January, 1808, Parson Beecher was united in marriage with Margaret Porter and began life in a log house; later he built the first frame house upon what was

known at the "Livingston tract," and the first between Bainbridge and Greene. Here Dr. Beecher was born and spent his boyhood days. Having suffered an injury, which produced long and painful lameness, he found himself incapacitated from manual labor, and at the age of sixteen entered Oxford Academy for a course of study. He remained at Oxford for four years, teaching at intervals. He then took up the study of medicine and first read with local practitioners and then going to Binghamton entered the office of Dr. Davis, later of Chicago and one of the most eminent members of the medical profession in the world. Later he graduated from the medical college at Castleton, Vt., and in 1848, settled in North Norwich and began practice. He was eminently successful in his profession and soon had a large and lucrative ride. He became very popular with his fellow townsmen and was elected to various town offices. He was superintendent of schools for a number of years and in 1859 represented the town on the Board of Supervisors. Before the Civil war Dr. Beecher was a Democrat in politics, but when the first shot was fired on Fort Sumpter, he promptly responded to the call of patriotism and announced himself on the side of the Union. He became active in advancing the cause of the North both by speeches and by urging men to enlist, and in 1862 decided to enter the ranks of the army. He offered his services to Governor Seymour and after a successful passing the required examination was commissioned assistant surgeon and assigned to the 114th Regiment, N. Y. Volunteers. Dr. Beecher went to the front with his regiment and by

his assiduous attention and sympathetic heart won the esteem of all the boys. Said a veteran of the regiment to the writer, when it was known that Dr. Beecher could not survive, "there was no man in the regiment more universally loved than he." After the regiment went to Louisiana he was ordered by General Banks to take charge of the U. S. Marine General Hospital at New Orleans. Here he remained for nine months and when he left to enter upon the Red River campaign, was presented with an elegant gold headed cane and other valuable tokens of appreciation by the soldiers for whom he had cared. From that time on he was continuously in active service and in the Shenandoah Valley was the only medical officer with his regiment. He returned with the 114th and then decided to locate in Norwich. He gave his time to his profession and literary work. Desiring the noble deeds of his brave comrades should be perpetuated, he wrote and published a "Record of the 114th Regiment, N. Y. S. V.," which made a work of nearly 600 pages and is conceded to be one of the best regimental histories ever written. During his residence in Norwich, Dr. Beecher was one of the best known and most popular citizens of the town. He was foremost in everything that pertained to the public good. He was made a trustee of the Norwich Academy and president of the board. He took much interest in everything that had to do with soldiers, and was one of the charter members of Smith Post, G. A. R. It was through his instrumentality that Memorial Day was first observed in Norwich. He also suggested the organization of the 114th regi-

mental association and became its corresponding secretary, an office he held at his death. At the reunions he was ever a prominent figure and contributed in a large measure to their success. In later years his favorite project was a soldiers' monument, towards which he stood ready to give \$500.00, but he never succeeded in overcoming the indifference of the public. He succeeded the late George W. Avery, M. D., as pension examiner and when a board was organized was made its president. He held the place till the advent of President Cleveland, when he gave way to men of Democratic faith. He was reappointed to the office and would have entered upon the duties had his health permitted. In 1874 he was elected Member of Assembly from Chenango and served on the committees on public health and joint library. While in the Assembly he made an able speech in which he advocated the cause of compulsory education. In his profession he ranked high and filled various offices in the Chenango County Medical Society. He was also a member of the State Society and of the New York Central and American Medical Association. He was an ornate and ready writer and gave many carefully prepared lectures and addresses on medical, agricultural, scientific and political subjects. His last public appearance as a speaker was when he gave an address of welcome to Capt. Harrison Clark on his return from the State encampment at Binghamton, where he was elected State Commander. Dr. Beecher never married. At his death he was survived by three brothers, Daniel and Hector Beecher of Coventry, and Harry Beecher of Norwich, and two sisters, Mrs. Hoyt

of Pittston, Pa., and Mrs. Yale of Binghamton. Genial, affectionate and cultivated in his taste, he was a true friend and a valued citizen. On Sunday morning at seven o'clock, July 14, 1889, calm and peacefully he passed from the ills and cares, and troubles of life into the rest of eternity in the 68th year of his age.

Simeon W. Warren

Simeon was the youngest son of Woodward Warren and was born in the town of Coventry, Chenango Co., N. Y., in 1830, at which place his life was spent until the removal of the family to Bainbridge in 1868. He joined the First Congregational Church at Coventryville in the year 1862, and July 4, 1864, was united in marriage to Sarah A., only daughter of Deacon John Stoddard of that place. For a long time his health had been gradually failing and hoping by change of scene and climate to regain it, the winter of 1885, was spent in Florida, with some improvement but during the summer and autumn after his return, the troublesome cough returned and pain increased, until hoping to escape the changes and severity of our northern winter he again accompanied by Mrs. Warren sought the more genial climate, hoping for renewed health and strength. But in vain; weakness and prostration increased until the one great desire remaining to himself, and her who with sad and anxious heart attended him, was to reach home once more. They came the eleventh of May, and the nineteenth he was assisted to the room which he never left again until the wasted silent form was borne by others, thus lingering but a few weeks after his return ere he passed to the land where no shadow or

pain or weariness falls. All his life free from those pernicious habits many acquire and indulge in, we only wish his example might be imitated. Of pleasant conversational powers and gentlemanly bearing, he ever chose to mingle with those of cultivated tastes, and being an ardent lover of music, found in it a source of never failing enjoyment. Many besides kindred hearts were touched with sorrow at the tidings of his death, and instinctively recall past hours, when other voices joined his in pleasant evening gatherings. As a teacher of music he was highly competent and earnest, aiming to improve those under his instruction. And for many years led the choir and then to give expression to the sentiments as to bring out as he would often say "the soul of the words and music." The members of the choir and Sunday school, who for many years he was a leader, ever gratefully remember his labors with them, and the few of his early friends in the "long ago," so often sang with him, hope through a Saviour's intercession to meet beyond the storms and changes of time, in the land of eternal light and beauty, and join them in perfect song. At Bainbridge, N. Y., July 26, 1886, he passed to his last resting place, aged 56 years. His remains were taken to Coventryville, and buried with his kindred dead. As the casket was lowered into the grave amidst the evergreens and flowers hearts echoed these beautiful lines:

"There is a calm for those who weep.

A rest for weary pilgrims found;
They softly lie and sweetly sleep,
Low 'neath the ground."

Dr. Wm. H. Beardsley

Dr. William H. Beardsley was born in Butternuts, Otsego Co., N. Y., in 1818. After preparing himself for his profession he came to Coventry and bought out Dr. Prentiss in 1846, living in the village and practicing till 1869, when he removed to a farm three miles south of Coventry and practiced there till his death, which occurred in 1886, in the 68th year of his age. He stood high in his profession, and in 1859-60 was President of the Medical Society of Chenango County, where his skill was well known and appreciated and where he stood high as a citizen in all the walks of life. He was a consistent member of the Methodist Church and exemplified his faith by his contributions and works and his interest in the cause of religion and good morals in the community in which he lived. His wife was Miss Catherine Phelps, an estimable Coventry lady who with four sons were left to mourn a devoted husband, a kind and indulgent father. The legacy of a good name and of good deeds were to them and bereaved friends, a source of comfort and consolation. It is said over forty carriages followed the remains of the beloved physician to the cemetery near his old residence in Coventry where he located forty years before.

Romeo Warren

Romeo Warren was born at Wattertown, Conn., Jan. 7, 1799, and at an early age removed to Coventry where he spent the greater portion of his life. He married Miss Lucy Lewis Nov. 6, 1822, with whom, if he had survived a few days longer he would have lived sixty-one years. He was emphatically a self made

a capital of energy, integrity and perseverance, he accumulated a fair fortune and won his way to the es-man. Commencing life with only teen and confidence of his fellow men. He held at times several offices of trust and responsibility. In 1852 he was elected sheriff of Chenango county, and in 1866-7, he was a member of the State Legislature. In both of these, as well as supervisor of his town, he discharged his duties with great credit to himself and the general satisfaction of the people. For nearly half a century he was a member of the Second Congregational Church of Coventry, and in his death which occurred Oct. 25, 1883, in his 84th year, that society lost one of its staunchest adherents. Thus passed away not only one of the oldest residents of the county, but one who was universally respected and esteemed.

Deacon Thaddens Hoyt

Deacon Thaddeus Hoyt died in Coventry, N. Y., March 21, 1867, aged 67 years. Seldom does the Church part with a more devoted, honored Christian brother. He was what the world so much needs, eminently a Godly man, a strict conscientious Christian possessing largely the grace of charity and one whose life a steady light, and whose piety honored his Saviour. He left the companion of his youth and ten children, all professed followers of Jesus; one a minister of Christ, and three deacons in the church. Surely his life work was well done. Infirm in body, suffering painfully from disease and ripe in Christian experience, he might well exclaim, "Go and dig my grave today,

Homeward doth my journey tend;
And I lay my staff away
Here, when all thing earthly end;
And I lay my weary head
In the only painless bed."

Miss Mary Kales

In Coventry, Dec. 3, 1887, Miss Mary Kales, daughter of Hon. William Kales, died suddenly of paralysis of the brain. The funeral was attended on the following Sunday afternoon at the home of her brother-in-law, A. V. Tallman. Her father, Hon. William Kales, had gone west on a visit to spend the winter, and being very aged, his infirmities did not allow him to come home to the funeral. For some years Miss Kales held the office of post-mistress of Coventry and discharged the duties of the office with ability and fidelity. She left many friends to mourn her loss.

Hiram Blakeslee

Hiram Blakeslee, a life long resident of this town and a farmer in the southeast part, well known in this community, died of congestion of the lungs. He was well advanced in years and had been in poor health for some time.

Mrs. Henry Stoddard

In Coventryville, Dec. 10, 1890, aged 70 years, the mother of J. H. Stoddard, who was so well known in this section passed away after suffering a severe and protracted illness.

Mrs. Duncan Parker

In Coventryville, Dec. 18, 1860, Mrs. Eliza Parker, wife of Duncan Parker, died very suddenly. Apparently in usual health she was playing and singing at the organ, when she stopped and complained of not

feeling well. No one was present but her husband and in spite of his frantic efforts to give her relief, she died in a few moments.

Lucius Manwarring

At Coventry, Nov. 8, 1895, Lucius Manwarring, an old and respected resident of this town, entered into his reward and his funeral was held at his late home Monday, Nov. 11. For upwards of sixty years he had been a faithful member of the Second Congregational Church at Coventry, and he was ever ready to help the poor and needy, and visit the sick. He had been a patient sufferer for a long time and had reached the ripe old age of seventy-eight years. He left one daughter, Mrs. Sanford, of Binghamton, and his wife, who had so patiently cared for him during his long illness.

Mrs. Amanda M. Judd

Died, in North Afton, Feb. 1, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Marcus Wrench, Mrs. Amanda M. Judd, aged 70 years. Mrs. Judd had been for several years a sufferer from various infirmities which in the more recent months gave rise to serious nervous derangement. In her last sickness, Mrs. Wrench was assisted in the care of her mother by Mrs. J. Shaw of Buffalo, a foster sister. Mrs. Judd was a native of Coventry, where she has always lived. Funeral services were held at the M. E. Church, conducted by Rev. R. C. Lansing of Coventryville. Mrs. Judd was survived by a husband, Joel Judd, who was in extreme age and physical infirmity.

Beecher

In Coventry, March, 27, 1893, Mrs. Betsey J., wife of Daniel

Beecher, Esq., aged 67 years.

Mrs. Frances Phillips

Mrs. Frances Phillips, second wife of James Phillips, of Coventry, a very estimable and highly respected lady, a devout and sincere Christian, for many years a member of the Second Congregational Church of Coventry and one much beloved by all that knew her, a kind neighbor, always ready to visit the sick and lend a helping hand, passed beyond this mortal life, after a short illness, at her home in Greene, Jan. 23, 1912. Her remains were brought to Coventry and buried by the side of her husband, who passed over about twelve years before.

Mrs. Samuel Martin

Mrs. Roxie E., widow of the late Samuel Martin of Coventry, died at the daughter's, where she made it her home in Greene, July 28, 1903, aged 76 years. Her funeral was held on Thursday, at her home and her remains were brought to Coventry for burial. She leaves one daughter, Mrs. William Kelley, to mourn her departure. Mr. Martin's people were, before his death, life long residents of Coventry.

Dickinson

Mrs. Lucretia E. Dickinson, formerly Miss Lucretia Scott, who was born in Coventry in February, 1832, died in Angola, Ind., Feb. 26, 1902, aged 69 years.

Mrs. Maria Hatch

Mrs. Maria Hatch, formerly Miss Maria Hungerford, was born in Watertown, Conn., in or near the year 1805. She came to this country with her parents in the year 1812. Her girl and youthful days were spent in Coventry. At an early

age she commenced teaching school and taught a good many years. After getting along in years she married Moses Hatch of Kattleville, where she lived until his death, which occurred in 1869 or 1870. She had one son, named Moses, who died in early youth. Soon after she came to Coventry and lived with her sister, Mrs. Susan Judd, until her death which was in 1884, after which she made it her home with her nephew, Chauncey D. Hungerford, until her death, which occurred Dec. 15, 189—. In her younger days she united with the church and has always been a faithful member. A large number of relatives and friends gathered at the home of C. D. Hungerford to attend her funeral and to pay the last respect to the departed sister in Christ. Rev. J. J. Henry officiated. The departed was an estimable woman and held in high esteem by all who knew her. Much credit is due the M. E. choir for the fine music rendered, and as one looked upon that face for the last time they could say "not dead, but sleeping." Her deeds are her memorial.

Passing away like the dew of the morning,

Soaring from earth to its earth in the sun;

Thus would she pass from the earth and its toiling,

Only remembered by what she had done.

Why should our tears in sorrow
When God returns his own.

Albert Stoddard

In the death of Albert Stoddard, which occurred at his home Monday evening, the community loses a man who has always been held in high esteem by all those who knew him. For nearly 80 years Mr. Stoddard

has been a resident of this town, and during that time has held many offices of honor and trust. At an early age he united with the First Congregational church, of which he has since been a faithful member. For many years he held the office of Deacon of the church, until failing health compelled him to remain much at home.

Mrs. Emiline Hunt

Mrs. Emiline Hunt passed peacefully away Monday, Sept. 28, 1903, at the home of her eldest daughter, Mrs. E. H. Wheeler, after suffering intensely from injuries received in an accident a few days previous, while returning home from the Afton fair, Sept. 25, with her daughter and son-in-law. The funeral was largely attended Wednesday, Rev. A. McIntyre officiating, and prayer also being offered by Rev. Oscar Beardsley of Oxford. Interment was made in the Coventryville cemetery by the side of her husband, N. G. Hunt, who preceeded her to the other shore four years before. Mrs. Hunt had passed the 80th milestone in life's journey a few weeks ago and how little it was thought to be her last birthday on earth. But again we are reminded of the uncertainty of life. Mrs. Hunt was of keen intellect, was tenderly devoted to her family, was a kind neighbor and friend, and her cheery, helpful and loving presence will be missed in various homes and from the gatherings, social and religious, in all of which she had an active interest. The deceased is survived by a son, Frank Hunt of Newark, N. Y., a son, D. N. Hunt of Coventry and two daughters, Mrs. E. H. Wheeler and Mrs. B. W. Parsons, both of Coventry.

Matthew Hoyt

Matthew S. Hoyt was born in 1819. If he was not born in this town he came here very young. He was a thrifty farmer, and one of those hustling men that made farming a success and a good reward for his labors. He was a man of prominence and made a success of all he undertook to do, holding many town offices. He early united with the Second Congregational church of Coventry, of which he was a consistent member all his life, and for many years was deacon. He died Jan. 14, 1891, aged 72 years.

Thomas Tift

Thomas Tift was born in Littleton, N. H., in 1829. Most undoubtedly his boyhood and youthful days were spent there, and his education received there. When a young man we find him working in Millbury, Mass. In Millbury, in 1851, he was united in the holy bonds of wedlock with Miss Elizabeth A. Parker of Coventry, N. Y., and he came to the Parker homestead where Ray Parker now lives. He built the house where Ray Parker now lives, but it stood north some little distance on the east side of the road. He afterward sold that and bought the first farm south of Ray Parker's, long known as the Thomas Tift farm. He built the barn that now stands there and built the house also. He lived there a good many years. Some time in his life he lived in Guilford a few years. He finally moved to the village and lived there the remainder of his life. He was a member of the Baptist church, I think, all of his life, one of the foremost workers and a strong pillar in that church. He was a good neighbor, sociable and kind, always

full of fun, well beloved and respected by all who knew him. They had two sons and two daughters, all living but one daughter. He quietly passed away Nov. 26, 1910, and was buried in the village cemetery. His wife has since been buried by his side.

John Niven

On Friday afternoon, Feb. 28, 1902, occurred the death of an old and respected townsman, John Niven, aged 83 years. For nearly 60 years Mr. Niven had been a resident of the town, and lived for over 50 years on the farm where he died. He was always an honest, upright man and had the esteem of all who knew him. His wife died some 25 years previous. He was survived by his son, George, who has always lived on the home farm, and one daughter, Mrs. Ella Truesdell, both of Coventry. George Tyler Niven, his son, died Jan. 3, 1911, aged 57 years. Mr. Niven had not been in good health for several years, but had not given up work until the last of October when he had a severe illness and for several days it was thought he could not recover. But after a little he commenced to regain his health. At Christmas time he was able to ride out and the prospect looked good for many years of life for him. But a few days later he commenced to fail, and failed rapidly till the end came. He was highly respected by all who knew him, a kind neighbor and a true friend. He always lived on the farm where he was born. He was married to Miss Sarah Allen, who survives him. He was also survived by two daughters, Mrs. Arthur Hunt, who now lives on the homestead, and Miss Edna Niven: also one sis-

ter, Mrs. Ella Truesdell of Coventry.

Chauncey S. Williams

Chauncey S. Williams was born in Coventry, Sept. 1, 1843. His younger days were spent here. His education was acquired in the schools of this town. He lived here till he was about 25 years old and then went west and was gone five years in Wisconsin, and then came back, and in the year 1878 was united to Miss Calista H. Hutchinson in the holy bands of wedlock, and lived in the village of Coventry the rest of his life. In his early manhood he united with the Second Congregational church of Coventry, of which he was a faithful member up to the time of his death, which occurred Jan. 31, 1912, in the 66th year of his age. He never enjoyed good health, but still he was not confined to the house but a few days to a time, with the exception of two or three sick spells until the last two winters when he was not able to be out for a long time each winter. He was naturally a quiet man nearly always at home, a man highly esteemed and well beloved by all who knew him. He was a good worker and a strong pillar in the church.

Calista Hutchinson

Calista Hutchinson, wife of Chauncey S. Williams, was born Jan. 26, 1827, in Coventry. She was the daughter of Zenas and Electa Hutchinson. Her youthful days were spent in this place, her education was received here, and in her youthful days she joined the Second Congregational church and lived a consistent member all her life. She was a very amiable woman and much loved by all who knew her. She never enjoyed good health and

for the last year or more her health was very poor. She died Dec. 10, 1901, aged 72 years.

T. D. Parker

Timothy D. Parker was born in Coventry in 1824. He had been a life long resident of this town. He lived with his father on the old homestead. As he has been spoken of once in this book we will not say but a few words here. He died Sept. 20, 1809, aged 75 years.

Mrs. Matilda Minor

Mrs. Matilda Minor passed quietly away Sept. 24, 1910, at the age of 95 years, at the home of her son, Alanson Minor, where she had lived over 60 years. The deceased had been a faithful member of the First Congregational church for seventy-eight years, and had for some time previous to her death been connected with the church the longest of any of its present members. Mrs. Minor was born in Connecticut, Feb. 12, 1815, and at the age of three years moved with her parents, Ithuel Blake and wife, and resided for a number of years on their farm one mile south of the village. Her first home in those early pioneer days was a log house. In 1837, she married Frederic Minor, and a few years later they moved to the farm which has been the Minor homestead ever since. Her husband died 35 years previous. A few years later she lost her eyesight as the result of cataracts and during all the years of widowhood and blindness, and in later years of gradually fading faculties, both physical and mental, she had been exceptionally and lovingly cared for at the home by her son and family. She was survived by one brother, Alanson Blake, of Eau

Claire, Wis., who was about ninety years of age, and by two sisters, Mrs. Sybil Hathaway of Cannonsville, and Mrs. Wealthy Horton of Bainbridge, and by a son, Alanson Minor, and a daughter, Mrs. F. C. Pearsall, all of this place; and by eleven grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren. She lost a daughter, Mrs. Amasa Hathaway, several years ago. The deceased was a woman of strong physical constitution and strong Christian character, and was always interested and enthusiastic in the welfare and advancement of the church and all religious and uplifting influence, and ever in the family was loving and patient, and thoughtful of others and forgetful of self, and endeavoring in every way to be helpful to those around her. Her death took from the village one who has been for years a valued and highly esteemed resident. She belonged to a family line that have been active in the Congregational church. Her grandfather, Benjamin Benedict, was one of the original members of the church organized over a hundred years ago and he was later elected deacon. Her father, Ithuel Blake, was for many years deacon; and the name of Deacon Blake and his sterling qualities are kindly remembered by the older inhabitants. Her brother, Alanson Blake, was also a deacon and an influential member of the church; and her son, Alanson Minor, has served in the same capacity, thus being a representative of the fourth generation since the organization of the church.

Mrs. Catherine T. Beardsley

Mrs. Catherine T. Beardsley, wife of Dr. William H. Beardsley, was born in 1826, in the town of Cov-

entry. Mrs. Beardsley had reached nearly the four score mark (79 years) of useful life in the most eventful period in the history of the world. She was a faithful wife, a devoted mother, an earnest, consistent Christian through most of her life and for more than thirty years was a member of the Coventry M. E. church. The good example she set in her all her life was a lamp to the feet of all who knew her, and shed its light like a halo over her declining years. She left four sons to mourn her loss: William E. and Cory L. Beardsley of this town, Frank Beardsley of Cazenovia and James Beardsley of Manilla, P. I., where he has a position as engineer in the employ of the United States government. Mrs. Beardsley passed away in 1905, aged 79 years.

W. H. Benedict

The death of W. H. Benedict takes from our midst another one who has been a life long resident and one of Coventryville's most highly respected citizens and a kind neighbor and friend. He was a member of the First Congregational church about 60 years, and was repeatedly elected deacon, and for about 20 years at one time and another. He was an unusually efficient superintendent of the Sunday school. For many years he was a very regular and helpful attendant at all the various Sunday morning and evening and midweek services, but owing to failing health and declining years he had been unable to be present as much of late years. He had been gradually failing during the winter, having had an attack of grip and later being affected with heart trouble but more especially a general physical breakdown. He had been able to be up

around the house a portion of each day to the last. That he might be more conveniently cared for he was moved March 29 to the home of his daughter, Mrs. Shaw, on the farm adjoining. But Thursday morning on the old Benedict homestead where he was born 81 years ago, he quietly fell "asleep in Jesus," as was sung at the funeral. He was survived by his widow, Mrs. Lamira Miles Benedict, who had been a loving and helpful companion along life's journey for 56 years; two daughters, Mrs. Leroy Shaw and Mrs. E. B. Matthewson; and a sister, Mrs. Erastus Ives, all of this place.

Mary W. Lockwood

Mrs. Mary Waters Lockwood, whose death occurred on Feb. 20, was born in Coventry, N. Y., March 7, 1832, and in that place grew up to womanhood. There too she was married on Oct. 14, 1857, to the late Rev. William Herbert Lockwood, at that time pastor of the village church. Not long after they moved to Lowville, N. Y., where they remained until 1864, when Mr. Lockwood went to Wisconsin in response to a call to become pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Eau Claire. The next year Mrs. Lockwood, and two children followed to make their home in what was then called the far west. In this new country they labored together until "the night came in which no man can work," and the impress of their Christian characters will remain a lasting tribute to the lives they led. They finished their work together, for scarcely two months after Mr. Lockwood was called home his loving, grieving wife was stricken with paralysis and her active life was over, though for six years longer she

was spared to her friends. When in the early morning the message came that she had ceased to suffer and was at rest, a great wave of sorrow swept over many hearts. Not to the family alone, nor to the circle of intimate friends was she missed, but by the members of the church and Sabbath school and the old settlers, whose annual gatherings were once gladdened by her face and voice, and by the members of the Chautauqua Club, who read together many years and named their circle in her honor, The Lockwood Art and Traveling Club. Though she had suffered long none thought the end so near, but it came even as she would have chosen, painlessly and without warning, a beautiful close to a beautiful Christian life.

Reuben Rolf

Reuben Rolf was born on Long Island in the year 1811 and lived there till near the year 1837, when he moved to Coventry and bought a large farm three miles south of the village. He was an enterprising, thorough going farmer. At one time he kept 100 cows and had a cheese factory of his own. He was married to Miss Esther Wood, who died March 14, 1836. Elizabeth Wood, his second wife, died Oct. 26, 1853, aged 43 years. He had one son, Moses, by his first wife and they lost some other children. His third wife was Minerva Phillips of Coventry, their union was blessed with two or three children. She died April 2, 1896, aged 68 years. In 1869, Mr. Rolf sold his farm and moved with his family to Virginia, where he died Jan. 11, 1879, aged 68 years.

James Treadway

James Treadway was born in Connecticut in 1816, moved to Cov-

entry with his parents in 1824 and was a resident of this town until his death, which occurred in 1912.

The following is a short poem written by Mrs. Cordelia Wilder, one of Coventry's poets, the last one she ever wrote. She was about sick when she wrote it and said if she got better she would write another, but she never lived to write it.

Shall Coventry's record be forgot,
And never brought to mind;
We'll have a thought of kindness
yet

For the days of auld lang syne.

Let memory now turn back the
scroll

Of years and by gone days;
And Coventry sure has struggled on
And needs a word of praise.

A busy thriving bustling town
We look it o'er with pride;
And count it yet as number one,
A fact that's not denied.

We have had our share of teachers
great,

And teachers wise in lore;
And poets, too, come in our ranks,
We cannot pass them o'er.

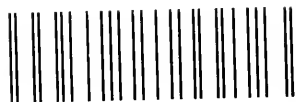
Good, honest merchants come in line,
They've served us well and long;
And they in story or song
Must not be over looked.

Go where you will in foreign lands,
Where'er you chance to roam;
And busy memory ever turns,
To Coventry as the home.

Dear Friends: I sincerely thank you, each one and all, in town and out, for any assistance you have given me in writing this history of the town of Coventry. As much of it had to be gleamed from the memory of a few of the older inhabitants, the writer trusts that if some one sees errors therein they will kindly pardon.

OLIVER P. JUDD.

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